

community

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

Award-winning African Author Presents Reading at CSB

Nuruddin Farah, an award-winning author who is considered Africa's greatest contemporary novelist, will present a reading on Feb. 7 at CSB. He will speak at 7:30 p.m. in Alumnae Hall, Haehn Campus Center.

Farah will be in residence at CSB/SJU Feb. 5-8, working with English, political science, history and peace studies classes. He also will meet with an Islamic study group at the schools and with student writers.

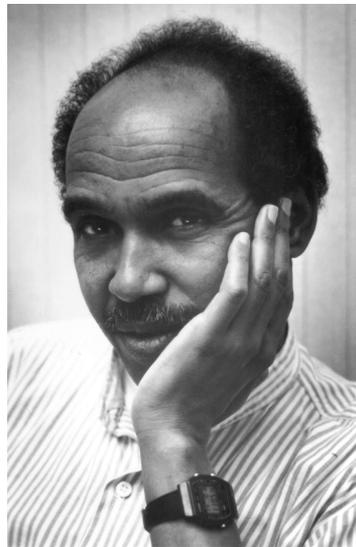
"Farah, the most important African novelist to emerge in the past 25 years, is also one of the most sophisticated voices in modern fiction," said *The New York Times Book Review*.

Farah's literary purpose is "to keep my country alive by writing about it," he said.

Born in 1945, in what is now Somalia (then the Italian-administered region of southern Somalia), Farah grew up in a multi-lingual environment (he speaks Somali, Amharic, English, Italian and Arabic). He studied literature, philosophy and sociology at India's Punjab University, and later theater in London.

His writing career began with the publication of *From a Crooked Rib* in 1970, which earned him the reputation of a "male feminist." He left Somalia in 1974, and, following the publication of his next book, *A Naked Needle*, in 1976, Farah was sentenced to death in absentia by Siad Barre's regime in the late 1970s. Rather than return to his homeland, Farah began a self-imposed exile that lasted more than 20 years.

The first of his two trilogies, *Variations on the Theme of an African Dictatorship*, attacks the corruption of many authoritarian post-colonial African regimes, comparing them to the abuses of European colonialists; it also explores gender issues, particularly the practice of female circumcision.



Nuruddin Farah

This trilogy was chosen as the 2006-07 selection of the S. Mariella Gable OSB, Prize by the Literary Arts Institute at CSB, and the English department at CSB/SJU. S. Mariella was a Dante scholar, poet, editor, writer and champion of new fiction who taught at CSB from 1928-73.

He was awarded the 1998 Neustadt International Prize for Literature, "widely regarded as the most prestigious international literary award after the Nobel," according to *The New York Times*. The biennial award is sponsored by the University of Oklahoma and World Literature Today.

Farah's most recent books are *Yesterday, Tomorrow: Voices from the Somali Diaspora* (2000), a narrative collection of tales from the Somali diaspora following the 1991 col-

lapse of Mogadishu; *Links* (2005) and *Knots* (2007).

His residency at CSB/SJU is sponsored by the Literary Arts Institute (LAI) of CSB. The LAI, founded in 1997, fosters creative writing, publishing and interaction between students and writers. The LAI brings nationally recognized authors to the college, promotes literary events, holds conferences, supports publications and encourages the artistry of fine letterpress. With its local and national partners, such as Graywolf Press in Minneapolis, the LAI is able to bring writers together with readers on campus and in Minnesota.

COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict



Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

CSB Trustee Named CEO of the Year

Will Oberton, a member of CSB Board of Trustees, was named 2006 CEO of the Year by Morningstar, Inc., Jan. 4.

Oberton has been CEO of Fastenal Co. since December 2002. Fastenal, founded in 1967 and based in Winona, Minn., is the largest distributor of industrial fasteners in the nation.

The other finalists for the award were John Chambers, chairman and CEO of Cisco Systems; Ken Chenault, chairman and CEO of American Express; George Roche, chairman and president of T. Rowe Price Group; and John Thain, CEO of NYSE Group.

“Oberton and Fastenal may not be as well-known as our other nominees this year, but they are no less impressive,” said Patrick Dorsey, director of stock analysis for Morningstar, in a press release. “Under Oberton’s stewardship, the company has produced a superior financial record and a remarkable history of shareholder value, and it still holds a great deal of growth potential.”

According to the company’s 2005 annual report, it experienced \$1.5 billion in net sales in 2005 – a 23 percent increase over the 2004 level. Net earnings were \$166.8 million, a 27.4 percent increase over 2004. The company operates over 2,000 store sites in 50 states, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Singapore, China and the Netherlands, and employs over 10,000 people in sales and support positions.

Oberton joined Fastenal as a trainee in 1980. He worked his way through the ranks to become chief operating officer in 1997 and a corporate director in 1999. He was named Fastenal president in July 2001, and CEO of the company in December 2002.

Oberton has served on CSB’s Board of Trustees since 2004. Board members

serve three-year terms, and can serve up to three terms.

“The College of Saint Benedict is extremely fortunate to have Will serving as a trustee,” CSB president MaryAnn Baenninger said. “As a member of our governing board, he generously shares with us those qualities that have made him so successful as a corporate leader. We are grateful for Will’s dedication and congratulate him on this esteemed award.”

A native of Randall, Minn., Oberton is a 1976 graduate of Little Falls Community High School. He received a degree in marketing from St. Cloud Technical College in 1978.

The Morningstar CEO of the Year award, begun in January 2000, recognizes leaders who maximize shareholder value and demonstrate independent thinking. Past winners have included CEOs from Charles Schwab and Co., Nokia, Southwest Airlines and Bank One. Morningstar is a leading provider of independent investment research in the United States and in major international markets.

Saint John’s Presents Pax Christi Award to His Holiness Aram I

Saint John’s Abbey and University presented its highest honor, the Pax Christi Award, to His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia of the Armenian Apostolic Church, on Dec. 6.

The award ceremony included a public address, “Challenges Facing Christianity in the Middle East,” at the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater.

His Holiness’ relationship with Saint John’s came about because of “his leadership in opening the manuscript collection of the Catholicosate to the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library,” said Fr. Columba Stewart, executive director of the HM&ML. “He was our first Armenian partner in the Middle East.”

His Holiness was also being recognized for his leadership in ecumenism as the founding member of the Middle East Council of Churches and moderator of the World Council of Churches since 1991.

His Holiness was ordained a celibate priest in 1968, and obtained the title of Vartabed (Doctor of the Armenian Church) in 1970. In 1979, after serving one year as Locum Tenens, he was elected Primate of the Armenian Orthodox community in Lebanon. His tenure coincided with the Lebanese Civil War.

His Holiness has been active in inter-church dialogue, relations and collaboration since 1972, when he was appointed as the Catholicosate’s representative for ecumenical relations. He served in this position until 1995, and represented the Armenian Church at major theological and ecumenical conferences, assemblies and consultations in different parts of the world.

In June 1995, His Holiness was elected Catholicos (the head of the church) by the Electoral Assembly of the Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia (35 clergy and 115 lay representatives). He was consecrated and installed on July 1, 1995.

HM&ML was founded 40 years ago in response to the devastating loss of manuscripts and books during two world wars. It is the only institution in the world exclusively dedicated to the photographic preservation and study of manuscripts, particularly in locations where war, theft or physical conditions pose a threat. Since its inception, HM&ML has built the world’s largest collection of manuscript images, having photographed almost 100,000 manuscripts totaling more than 30 million pages.

As the highest honor awarded by Saint John’s, the Pax Christi Award recognizes those who have devoted themselves to God by working in ways akin to the tradition of Benedictine monasticism to

serve others and to build a heritage of faith in the world.

The award has been presented to 53 individuals, including Cardinal Leo Jozef Suenens of Belgium; Archbishop Jean Jadot, the former representative of the Holy See in the United States; Eugene McCarthy, the former senator, presidential candidate and SJU graduate; Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of the Chicago Archdiocese; and His Beatitude Ignatius IV Hazim, Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch.

Radio Station KSJR Celebrates 40 Years

It took about five extra hours to get radio station KSJR (90.1 FM) signed on the air Jan. 22, 1967.

But there wasn't any delay on Jan. 22, 2007, when KSJR celebrated 40 years being on the air with a reception and program at the Great Hall, SJU.

KSJR, a 24-hour-a-day service, became Minnesota Public Radio on Jan. 1, 1975. MPR has become one of the largest and most successful public radio systems in America. KSJR, which broadcasts classical music, is joined on campus by KNSR (88.9 FM), which has a news and information format.

The event "was primarily a celebration of (KSJR's) beginning," said Michael Olson, MPR district manager. It was also part of SJU's sesquicentennial celebration.

The reception was open to members of the campus and monastic communities. Invitations were also sent to select persons, including longtime MPR members who live in the area, and past/current members of the KSJR-KNSR community advisory committee.

The program featured introductions by Fr. Hilary Thimmesch, former SJU president. Among the speakers were MPR personalities Michael Barone, host and executive producer of the "Pipedreams" program, who spoke on MPR's musical

component; Gary Eichten, host of the "Midday" program and an SJU graduate who spoke on MPR's news component; and S. Colman O'Connell, former CSB president, who presented a recognition award to Bill Kling, a 1964 SJU graduate who helped start KSJR.

Kling, in writing about the debut of the station, recalled that "while (the Rev.) Colman (Barry, former SJU president) dined at the Germain Hotel in St. Cloud with supporters and a portable radio, unfortunately, the station didn't manage to get on the air until about five hours after the publicized time."

From its founding in Collegeville, MPR now operates as a 37-station network covering Minnesota and parts of Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Michigan, Iowa, Idaho and even Canada. MPR has 90,000 members and over 780,000 listeners each week and has the largest audience of any regional public radio network.

Adamson Named SJU Vice President for Finance and Administration

SJU president, Br. Dietrich Reinhart, announced the appointment of Richard Adamson as vice president for finance and administration at SJU.

Adamson, who started his new position Jan. 1, replaced Ken Osborne, who served as interim vice president for finance and administration since November 2005.

"Dick is an experienced administrator with a 20-year career in private higher education in Minnesota," Br. Dietrich said. "He brings with him a strong financial background as well as a deep understanding of private education in our region. I am delighted that he is joining the Saint John's community."

Since 1999, Adamson served as the vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer at Augsburg College. He provided strategic

guidance and control over the financial operations of the college, which has a \$53 million annual operating budget. From 1989-99, Adamson served as controller at Augsburg, supervising maintenance and control over financial transactions and records.

Prior to coming to Augsburg, Adamson served from 1983-89 as a senior public accountant at Adrian Helgeson and Company in Minneapolis, where he performed in-charge audits and tax duties for company clients in the areas of higher education, hospital and healthcare and construction.

Adamson earned a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1983, from the University of St. Thomas, where he graduated cum laude. He is a certified public accountant.

"I am excited to be joining the SJU community and becoming a member of the SJU leadership team," Adamson said. "I look forward to working with my colleagues in dealing with the challenges and opportunities facing higher education as we strive to build upon the great success and reputation of SJU."

"Both the SJU and CSB communities have been very welcoming and this, along with my past experience in private higher education, should make for a smooth transition," Adamson added.

SJU Student Honored

Former Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer presented a National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Medallion Award to SJU sophomore Nicholas Truso of Mahtomedi. Kiffmeyer made the presentation at Truso's high school alma mater.

The NASS Medallion Award allows secretaries of state to recognize individuals or organizations for outstanding service and dedication to furthering the mission of the National Association of Secretaries of State within the states. A

very limited number of the awards are presented.

Kiffmeyer said the award was in recognition of Truso's commitment and efforts to increase civic involvement and voter awareness statewide.

"During this past summer and early fall, Nick spearheaded the biggest voter education effort our state has ever seen originating from the secretary of state's office. He coordinated the efforts of a team of eight college and graduate student workers who represented the office and disseminated voter information," she said.

"We brought Nick on staff after seeing his extraordinary civic engagement efforts earlier, at Mahtomedi High School and at Saint John's University, and he turned out to be exactly the right choice," Kiffmeyer said.

"In the past, this award has been given to teachers, government officials, community activists, civic groups and a corporation that all have contributed immensely to the reputation that Minnesota has for being 'the civic state,'" she said. "In receiving this award, Nick joins an illustrious and industrious group."

CSB to Host Upper Midwest String and Chamber Music Conference

The CSB music department has announced that CSB will be the new host of the Upper Midwest String and Chamber Music Conference.

Formerly hosted by Mankato State University, the UMSCMC is a music camp for string students in grades 7–12 and is sponsored by the Minnesota String Orchestra Teachers Association. The dates for the 2007 conference are July 22–27. There is no entrance audition and students are accepted in the order in which they apply.

J. David Arnott, CSB/SJU assistant

professor of music and orchestra director, will be a member of the faculty.

Faculty/Staff News

On Nov. 22, **Richard Bohr**, professor of history and director of Asian studies, conducted an intergenerational conference on the implications of China and India, looming economic superpowers, on America's place in the 21st century. Participants included senior citizens from the Fairview Senior Center and students from the Roseville Area Middle School.

Bohr explained the increasing economic integration between China and India and its impact on making Asia the center of the world's economy. The senior citizens, recalling their earlier stereotypes of these two countries mired in poverty and chaos, expressed surprise at this turn of events. The seventh- and eighth-graders reported that rapid economic development was the only way they knew to characterize China and India.

The session concluded with the seniors asking the students what careers they foresaw for themselves in the "Asian Century." Both groups concluded that it is important to take the long view of history and not to get locked into any particular set of images and opinions about another country.

The event was sponsored by the Great Decisions Program of the Foreign Policy Association, the Fairview Senior Center and the St. Paul Public Schools.

Connie Schiff, education department secretary/receptionist, and **Tom Kroll**, land manager and Arboretum director, were recognized at a luncheon in their honor as the fall 2006 recipients of the Extraordinary Performance Awards. Please congratulate Connie and Tom for the contributions they make to our community!

Gar Kellom, SJU vice president for student development and director of the SJU Men's Center for Leadership and Service, and **Aaron Raverty OSB**, project editor at Liturgical Press, were invited to be co-editors of a special fall 2006 issue of *The Journal of Men's Studies* showcasing male college students and the work of CSB/SJU faculty and SJU students. Raverty has an article in this issue, "Are We Monks or Are We Men? The Monastic Masculine Gender Model According to *The Rule of Benedict*."

John R. Yoakam, associate professor and chair of social work, contributed "Resources for Gay and Bisexual Students in a Catholic College."

SJU alums **Alex Bakkum '06**, **Adam Beatty '05**, and **Matthew Syzdek '04** co-authored an article entitled "The Saint John's Experience Project: Challenging Men's Perceptions of Normative Gender Role Conflict."

Alvin Thomas, the first Men's Center exchange student from Morehouse College, also contributed an article about Caribbean masculinity with **Tracy Davis**, who served as the second scholar-in-residence at the Men's Center. This is the second Men's Center publication. Another monograph is in the works collecting case studies from many of the leading colleges in the country with men's studies programs, focusing on how to involve college men in men's studies. This project also will be published by the Men's Studies Press and is due out in about a year.

Charles Bobertz, professor in the department of theology and School of Theology, recently presented a series of lectures on St. Paul's letter to the Romans for the Adult Faith Formation program at St. Edward's Catholic Church in

Bloomington. He also gave a paper, "Ritual Performance: Narrative Resurrection in the Gospel of Mark," at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Washington, D.C.

The April 2007 issue of *College Literature* will be devoted solely to studies of Homer and will feature an article by **Scott Richardson**, professor of classics, entitled "Conversation in the Odyssey."

A paper co-authored by **Michael Halverson**, associate director, Annual Giving and Operations, SJU Institutional Advancement, "DSS for Global Competitive Advantage," was presented by his co-author, Dr. Elaine Davis of SCSU, at the AIB Southeast Asia Regional Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, on Dec. 9.

The following political science senior majors gave poster presentations Nov. 11, at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Political Science Association at Metropolitan State University.

From POLS 364: Senior Research Seminar in International Relations and Comparative Politics:

Stephen Keimel, "The Tigers and the Dragon: An Assessment of the Relationship between ASEAN and China"

Kosuke Makhara, "Nato Expansion and its Future Implications"

John Harrison, "Guantanamo Prisoners and Civil Rights"

From POLS 363: Senior Research Seminar in U.S. Political Institutions:

Timothy Amundsen, "Term Limits and their Effects on Representation: Are Legislators True to their Constituency?"

Andrew Minck, "Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court after Presidential Signing Statements: Is the Supreme Court Stripped of their Power?"

Gabriel Schlabach, "Politics and the Christian Right: A Social Movement Theory Analysis"

Jeffrey Webster, "Government Tax Incentives: The Right Choice for Renewable Fuels"

James Garay-Heelan, "Immigration Politics and Systemic Bias: Haitians Seeking Political Asylum"

Sam Richie, "American Political Parties and Their Candidates: A Less Dependent Relationship?"

The Welcome Mat

We welcome the following to our CSB/SJU Community:

Lisa Scott Galler, Academic Advising

Barb Grelson, Financial Aid

Laurie Wolfe, Psychology

Heidi Everett, Institutional

Advancement

Jodie Peschl, Companions on a Journey

Cathy Robak, IT Services

Ashley Roerick, Security

Marcy Illies, Management

Joshua Trutwin, Computer Science

Mary Schmidt, Communications

Colleen Klatt, Communications

David Tschida, Communications

Farewell to Friends

Lonna Christenson, Military Science

Carole Wirz, Financial Aid

Don Turk, Communications

In the Media

MaryAnn Baenninger, CSB president, was featured Jan. 16, in a *St. Cloud Times* article, "CSB leader appointed to judicial committee."

CSB was featured Jan. 16, in a *St. Cloud Times* article, "College to host summer music conference."

Paul Ruszat, CSB executive chef, was featured Jan. 16, in a *St. Cloud Times* article, "Culinary workers hope for federation."

The obituary of **Sylvester Haehn**, benefactor and former CSB Board of Trustee member, was published Jan. 13,

in a *St. Cloud Times* report, "Former St. Ben's board member dies."

Richard Adamson, SJU vice president for finance and administration, was featured Jan. 13, in a *St. Cloud Times* article, "Augsburg vice president moves to fill similar position at St. John's."

Will Oberton, CSB Board of Trustee member and Fastenal president and CEO, was featured in a *St. Cloud Times* article, "Morningstar CEO of the Year."

Jon Goodman, SJU sophomore, was featured Jan. 7, in *St. Cloud Times* article "Customizing shoes carries St. John's student to world of celebrities."

The Saint John's Bible was featured Dec. 24, on *CSPAN-2* "Book TV" program.

Nicholas Truso, SJU sophomore, was interviewed for Dec. 20, *WJON-AM* story, "St. John's student honored for his 'get out the vote' efforts."

MaryAnn Baenninger, CSB president, and Br. **Dietrich Reinhart**, SJU president, were featured in a Fall 2006 American Council on Education *The Presidency* article, "Presidents in Action: The Ultimate Partnership."

community

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

Events Calendar

Jan. 28-Feb. 3

The Mystical Arts of Tibet
Photography Exhibit
SJU Art Center

Feb. 1-3

CSB/SJU Fine Arts Education Series: The Mystical
Arts of Tibet
SJU Stephen B. Humphrey Theater, 9:15 & 11:15
a.m., Feb. 1; 8 p.m., Feb. 2; 2 p.m., Feb. 3.

Feb. 4

African American Read-In
Sponsored by FYS, Rhonda Armstrong
CSB Board Room, Main Building, 2 p.m.

Feb. 7

S. Mariella Gable Award Reading
Narrudin Farah
CSB Alumnae Hall, HCC, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 9

Pastiche
SJU Stephen B. Humphrey Theater, 8 p.m.

Feb. 13-17

Mark Lundholm Theater Residence
"Addicted: A Comedy of Substance"
CSB Gorecki Theater, 7 and 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 15-16

Conference on Women's Spiritualities
"Following our Foremothers for the Sake
of the World"
Keynote: Mary Swander
CSB Alumnae Hall, HCC, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 16-17

4th Annual Conference on the College Male

Feb. 16

Shirber Lecture
"Social Responsibility in the Age of Genomics"
Dr. Debra DeBruin
SJU Quad 264, 7:30 p.m.
CSB Gorecki Theater, 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 20

Carol Finley
Solo/Ensemble Recital
CSB Petters Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 21

Wind/Jazz Ensemble
CSB Petters Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 26-March 2

SPRING BREAK

For recent updates on calendar events, visit <http://www.csbsju.edu/calendar/>.

To submit calendar items, send information to Glenda Burgeson at
gburgeson@csbsju.edu