Amen
Celebrating the Completion of The Saint John’s Bible
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22 Tokyo, March 11
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Saint John’s celebrated a supreme accomplishment on June 18 when calligrapher Donald Jackson traveled to Collegeville to deliver the final folios of The Saint John’s Bible. Saint John’s commissioned this handwritten, illuminated Bible in 1998. For the last thirteen years, Jackson, his wife, Mabel, and a dedicated team of artists and scribes devoted their lives to this enormous task.

Saint John’s honored Donald and Mabel with the Fr. Colman Barry Award for Distinguished Contributions to Religion and Society, named for former SJU President Colman Barry, OSB.

For those of you who didn’t know Fr. Colman, he was famous for thinking “outside the box.” He was a visionary who empowered others to bring his ideas to life. During his tenure, Saint John’s established the Jay Phillips Chair in Jewish Studies, Minnesota Public Radio and the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library. It’s intriguing to imagine how Fr. Colman might have reacted when Saint John’s embarked upon a project as groundbreaking as The Saint John’s Bible.

Last year, I had the rare opportunity to visit the Scriptorium in Wales where the team of artists and calligraphers labored for more than a decade. I felt the rough surface of the vellum pages and even had a try at forming letters with a quill. As someone whose handwriting is barely legible with a traditional pen, I have a new level of admiration for the artists!

I can only imagine what Donald Jackson and the artistic team must feel upon completing The Saint John’s Bible. I stand both in awe of what they’ve accomplished and in anticipation of the new phase that the Bible has begun.

Abbot John and I were honored and humbled to make the final marks in The Saint John’s Bible—gold-leaf gilded crosses—as commissioners of the Bible. Words cannot express how moving it has been for the Saint John’s community to celebrate the fulfillment of this dream.

As we continue to share this masterpiece, we can only anticipate how it will influence and shape faith communities, the artistic community, Benedictines and others around the world for centuries to come.
The stats:

Graduates hailed from 13 countries and 18 states.

23 percent of the graduating class indicated that neither parent had a bachelor’s degree when they entered SJU.

62 graduated with honors, including 20 who were members of the recently founded Theta of Minnesota Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest academic honor society.

32 indicated that they were entering volunteer service upon graduation, including 15 who joined the Benedictine Volunteer Corps.

47 are going to graduate school.

The top five majors were management, accounting, biology, communication and psychology.

The 2011 SJU graduating class included 475 undergraduate men—the largest in school history—and 27 School of Theology-Seminary graduates. When combined with CSB’s 483 graduates, this year’s class of 958 is the largest ever. Video of the SJU commencement ceremony is online at csbsju.edu/commencement.htm
Faculty and Administrative Honors

Faculty Honored at Awards Ceremonies
(L to R) J. Scott Johnson, professor of political science, received the SJU Robert L. Spaeth Teacher of Distinction Award; Richard Wielkiewicz, professor of psychology, received the Linda Mealey Teacher-Scholar Award; Stephen Stelzner, professor of psychology, received the CSB S. Mary Grell Teacher of Distinction Award.

Durken ’52 Receives Administrator Award

Daniel Durken, OSB, received the 2011 Fr. Vincent Tegeder, OSB, Outstanding Administrator Award. The honor is awarded annually to an administrator who embodies the spirit of Saint John’s and provides excellent service on behalf of the Saint John’s community.

In his 55 years at Saint John’s, Fr. Daniel has served as a professor, editor, director and pastoral leader—often at the same time. He recently retired from a decade-long stint as editor of the Abbey Banner, where he shared the story of the Benedictine community with thousands of readers.

Faculty Retirements
Six faculty members retired this year and were honored for their years of service:

- Sandra Bot-Miller, Ph.D.
  professor alumna of education
- Quentin Gerber, Ph.D.
  professor of accounting and finance
- Donald Hoodecheck, Ph.D.
  professor emeritus of education
- James Johnson, Ph.D.
  adjunct assistant professor of mathematics
- Cheryl Knox, Ph.D.
  professor emerita of biology
- Lois Wedl, OSB, Ph.D.
  professor alumna of education

Fr. Dan Durken, OSB, at work in the Liturgical Press, where he served as director for many years.

csbsju.edu/news
Minnesota Connection to Royal Wedding

As viewers across the world watched Prince William and Catherine Middleton tie the knot on April 29 at Buckingham Palace, one group of viewers who were visiting Saint John’s had a closer connection.

The choir from the royal parish church, St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, London, joined three SJU and CSB choral ensembles and the Amadeus Chamber Symphony in a concert at Saint John’s the day of the nuptials.

St Martin-in-the-Fields’ appearance at Saint John’s was the first stop on their first-ever U.S. tour. The concert included a tribute from St Martin’s choir to the royal couple.

The concert was co-sponsored by the CSB/SJU Department of Music and the Institute for Sacred Music at Saint John’s.

McCarthy Center Hosts Kathleen Hall Jamieson as Scholar-in-Residence

The Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy & Civic Engagement at Saint John’s University hosted Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Elizabeth Ware Packard Professor of Communication at the Annenberg School for Communication and Walter and Leonore Annenberg Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, as the fourth annual scholar-in-residence.

Jamieson, an award-winning author of 16 books, helped create FactCheck.org, a non-partisan and non-profit group dedicated to researching claims made by politicians and political parties. Jamieson spoke to numerous classes and participated in several events with faculty, staff and students.
Ever the wit, Washington Post columnist E. J. Dionne opened a panel discussion at Saint John’s about faith and public service with a quip about Benedictines.

Dionne, who was educated by Benedictines in high school, listed some of their characteristics—moderation, practical wisdom and good sense—and then deadpanned, “… exactly the same qualities I see in D.C.”

Dionne moderated a distinguished panel of CSB and SJU alumni about the Benedictine influence of their undergraduate years on their careers in public service. Panelists included a retired judge, a journalist, a hospital executive and a social justice activist. Their accomplishments stood in sharp contrast with the cynicism implied in Dionne’s jest. The discussion, “Celebrating Benedict: Faith and Public Service,” was presented March 22, in the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater at SJU. It was sponsored by the Benedictine Institute of Saint John’s, in cooperation with the Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy & Civic Engagement at Saint John’s University.

Throughout the evening, the stories the panelists told recalled the same Benedictine values—listening, respect for persons, hospitality and justice.
Elizabeth Hayden ’68, retired Minnesota District Court judge, spoke of how she applied the art of listening from the bench. “Listening was my greatest tool,” she said.

For Jeffrey Korsmo ’80, one lesson among many made a lasting impression. He recalled he and some friends were involved in some sort of “misbehavior” in the dorm. Two monks confronted them and explained that their behavior wasn’t fitting with what was expected of them.

That did it, he said. “We figured it out.”

As an administrator at Mayo Clinic facing challenging personnel issues, Korsmo said the lessons he learned from the Benedictines helped him treat people with respect and dignity.

Al Eisele ’58, editor-at-large for The Hill in Washington, D.C., jokingly recalled that he never fully availed himself of the intellectual opportunities offered at Saint John’s. Nevertheless, he acknowledged the powerful influence the monks had on him as a young man, shortly after the death of his father.

The value of respect for others serves as a daily guide for the youngest graduate, Eric LeCompte ’99. As executive director of Jubilee USA Network, he leads a coalition of 75 religious, labor, relief, environmental and human rights groups working for debt relief for the world’s poorest countries.

While the evening conversation may have been an affirmation for many alumni in the audience, for two current students it was an eye-opener. Alex Ricci ’13 was impressed by all the references to Benedictine values. “They underlie everything we do,” he said.

Drew Stommes ’13 had a similar reaction. “It made me look at my own values and aspirations.”

Administrative Appointments

DesJardins Named Vice Provost
Joe DesJardins became the vice provost in July. DesJardins earned his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame and joined the philosophy faculty in 1990. His scholarship has focused on ethics, and he served as executive director of the Society for Business Ethics from 2004-08. DesJardins has served as associate provost and academic dean since 2007.

Ice Accepts Academic Dean Position
Richard Ice became academic dean of CSB/SJU in July. He will serve as the key administrator on curricular matters and in student learning and assessment. Ice completed his doctoral work at the University of Iowa, and has taught in the communication department since 1989. He has been involved in faculty governance, served as department chair and received the Robert L. Spaeth Teacher of Distinction Award in 2005.

Welsh ’79 Appointed Executive Director of Major Gifts
John Welsh comes to Saint John’s with a 30-year history in business including leadership positions with Control Data, Allen Interactions and Strategies 4 Leadership. He has a comprehensive background in accounting and finance, sales and marketing, organizational leadership and technology. Welsh has been a class agent since graduating from SJU as well as serving as president of the Twin Cities Alumni Board and completing one term on the National Alumni Board (1988-92).
Alumni Actors Return to Their Roots

Acclaimed actors Michael Hayden '87 and Karla Noack CSB '89 have found great success on stage since graduation. Both actors joined Tom Darnall, professor emeritus of theater, for an informal performance and conversation about their lives in the theater at a campus event in March.

Noack has taught theater at the college level and worked with several theater companies. Hayden made national arts news in 2010 when he played both Richard II and Henry V simultaneously at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C.

Both alumni shared how SJU and CSB shaped them as actors and as people. “At a place like this, you learn how to learn. Once you learn how to learn, you're set for life. You have a hunger for it. It doesn't matter what palette you choose for your work,” said Hayden.

Plut ’58 Pays Tribute to Hassler ’55

A friendship between two Johnnnies unfolds in Conversations with Jon Hassler, a newly published book by Joseph Plut ’58. Plut, a retired English instructor from Central Lakes College in Brainerd, Minn., met beloved teacher and novelist Jon Hassler ’55 when they taught together in Brainerd in the late ’60s. Plut collected and refined nine interviews he conducted with the late Hassler between 1997 and 2001, in which they discuss the origins, themes and anecdotes associated with each of Hassler’s nine popular novels.

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New Members of the Board of Regents

Lay Regents

**Patrick Ellingsworth** ’70 retired as executive vice president of tax and corporate structure for Royal Dutch Shell plc in the Hague, Netherlands in 2008. Ellingsworth is a past chair of Scholarship America Inc. and currently serves as a governing trustee of the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation. He is chair of the tax committee of the Business and Industry Advisory Committee of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development.

**Stuart Harvey** ’83 has served as chief executive officer and president of Ceridian Corporation since 2010. Prior to joining Ceridian, Harvey was the chief executive officer of Elavon’s Global Acquiring Solutions organization. He holds a J.D. from The National Law Center at The George Washington University and a MBA from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University.

**Bill Jeatran** ’82 was a founding partner of RJF Agencies, one of the largest independent insurance agencies in the upper Midwest. He served as chairman of the board and chief executive officer. Marsh & McLennan acquired RJF in January, 2011, and Jeatran joined Marsh & McLennan, staying on as CEO of RJF. He also served as chairman of the board at Assurex Global. Jeatran and RJF have won numerous awards including the 2009 Minnesota Business Ethics Award.

**Jim Knoblach** ’79 is principal at North Star Properties in St. Cloud, Minn. Knoblach earned an M.B.A. from Harvard University and a master’s degree from Georgetown University. He served in the Minnesota State Legislature from 1995-2006. Knoblach is a licensed real estate broker, certified public accountant and serves on the board of directors for several startup medical and technology companies.

Monastic Regents

**Jonathan Licari**, OSB, is the subprior of Saint John’s Abbey. Licari was ordained a priest in 1976 and professed vows in 1982. He has doctorates in both philosophy and canon law. Licari taught at Saint John’s School of Theology-Seminary from 1982-2001. He has served as prior of the monastery and as pastor at Saint John the Baptist Parish, Collegeville and Holy Name Parish in Medina, Minn.

**Michael Naughton** ’62, OSB, is currently pastor of Seven Dolors Parish in Albany, Minn. Naughton has been a member of the abbey since 1960 and was ordained a priest in 1966. He has an advanced degree in psychology. Naughton previously served as director of the Liturgical Press (1988-2001) and as prior at Saint Anselm’s Benedictine monastery in Rome (2004-2009).

**Simon-Hòa Phan**, OSB, was born in Vietnam, and professed solemn vows in 1993. Phan has degrees in philosophy and theology and received an MFA in film and video from the California Institute of Arts. He has worked in the multicultural office at Saint John’s University and in the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library. Phan has been teaching in the CSB/SJU art department since 2003, and this fall will be a faculty resident.

Faculty Regent

**Carie Braun**, CSB/SJU associate professor of nursing, holds master’s and doctoral degrees in nursing from the University of Minnesota. In 2006, she received the Linda Mealey Teacher-Scholar Award from CSB/SJU for effective student-faculty research collaboration. Braun was the self-study coordinator through the successful Higher Learning Commission accreditation process from 2006-2008.

Student Regent

**Jon Ostazeski** ’12 is a senior accounting major from Duluth, Minn., and the new student Regent. At Saint John’s, Ostazeski has been involved in men’s spirituality groups, student senate and served as a resident assistant. He spent a semester studying abroad in Greece and Rome, and currently works in the admission office.

csbsju.edu/news
Amen
Celebrating the Completion of The Saint John’s Bible

With the delivery of the final volume of The Saint John’s Bible—Letters & Revelation—a creation that His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI called a “work for eternity” is finished.

The first monumental, illuminated, handwritten Bible to be commissioned by a Benedictine monastery in more than 500 years is done. All 73 books from the Old and New Testaments, presented in seven volumes and 1,150 pages, are now home at Saint John’s.

Commissioned in 1998, this historical project was a vast achievement by artistic director Donald Jackson, his team of artists and scribes, and the Saint John’s community. The original artwork and its fine art edition, the Heritage Edition, are a gift to the world and will be seen, read and experienced for centuries to come.

As Michael Patella, OSB, chair of The Saint John’s Bible Committee on Illumination and Text, said: “Let the Bible do what we [Saint John’s] wanted it to do—provide a new way of interpreting the Bible by letting the Spirit work through the art and the text.”

On June 18, Donald and Mabel Jackson, the Saint John’s community, artists, theologians, biblical scholars, donors and friends gathered to celebrate its completion. It was an emotional and jubilant event that included prayers, honors, tributes, remembrances and resounding applause for a “job well done.”
Above: The presentation of the final volume of *The Saint John’s Bible* was celebrated in Saint John’s Abbey Church during a vigil service. This series of images show Donald and Mabel Jackson processing with a Letters & Revelation folio containing the “Vision of the New Jerusalem” illumination. It was presented to Abbot John Klassen, OSB, and Bob Koopmann, OSB, president of Saint John’s University. Other highlights include Abbot John reading 2 Timothy “All scripture is inspired by God” from a folio and the National Catholic Youth Choir conducted by Dr. Axel Theimer, CSB/SJU professor of music, singing in the balcony.

Bottom left: Fr. Bob and Abbot John each burnish a small Benedictine cross on the folio containing the “Vision of the New Jerusalem” illumination. Two small Benedictine crosses were gilded on the page by Donald but left unburnished. By polishing the crosses, Fr. Bob and Abbot John finished the book and the making of *The Saint John’s Bible*.

Bottom right: After the final touches, the folio remained on display on the altar for guests to view. There were also 10 two-page spreads displayed around the perimeter of the Abbey Church for guests to view before and after the vigil. All folios came from Letters & Revelation.
Above: Donald and Mabel Jackson were honored with The Colman J. Barry Award for Distinguished Contributions to Religion and Society at a dinner following the vigil. “Together you have made this magnificent dream a reality,” commented Fr. Bob Koopmann, “giving our community a richer understanding of its Benedictine heritage, and illuminating the word of God for a new millennium.”

Top left: Donald Jackson, the Bible’s artistic director, was praised because “For 15 years you poured your heart and soul into the creation of The Saint John’s Bible.” In the evening’s final remarks, Donald said, “What Saint John’s will do with it [the Bible] is our legacy. That is going to provide all of us with a legacy for the work we put into it … If you go within and ask, you’ll find good things to do with it. The history of this project and the relationship we’ve had with this place tells me that you’ll find good answers.”

Left: Mabel Jackson was honored for her “abiding love for Donald and for the project, which provided guidance, support and gentle encouragement to the entire team.” In her acceptance remarks, Mabel said, “What courage Saint John’s shows taking it [the Bible project] on … what a result.”
The Tributes and Remembrances

Three individuals who made extraordinary contributions to *The Saint John’s Bible* project were honored and remembered on June 18.

**Jo White** For introducing Saint John’s to Donald Jackson and in recognition of all that she has done for the project, Abbot John proclaimed her as the “mother of *The Saint John’s Bible.*” Jo receives a Wisdom Woman print from the Wisdom Books volume for being the “woman of wisdom in our midst.”

**Carol Marrin** As the former director of *The Saint John’s Bible* and “pillar of wisdom,” Carol was recognized for her eight years of work on the project. Carol passed away just weeks before the celebration after a courageous struggle with breast cancer. Abbot John said “she held on long enough to see her ‘third child’ come to maturity.”

**Dietrich Reinhart, OSB** Br. Dietrich, former president of Saint John’s University, who passed away in December 2008, was recognized as the “supreme champion and mastermind of the project.” Abbot John said Br. Dietrich reveled in the beauty and glory of each and every page. “But even though he is not with us in person you can be sure he is looking down at us with his boyish grin proud as can be,” he said.

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The Final Touches

**Gilding**
Applying gold leaf to an illumination.

**Illumination**
An illustration or decoration that has been illuminated with gold or silver.

**Burnishing**
Finishing the gilding by rubbing the surface with a burnishing tool.

To learn more about *The Saint John’s Bible* and for a schedule of current national exhibitions, visit saintjohnsbible.org. Folios of *The Saint John’s Bible* are always on display on the Saint John’s campus at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library.

Margaret Wethington Arnold is a public relations writer who has consulted for several years to *The Saint John’s Bible.*

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Above: Just weeks before the celebration in Collegeville, the Bible’s making came to a historic close with the entire artistic team gathered at the Scriptorium in Wales. Even though this talented group of calligraphers, iconographers and illustrators created this monumental work as a team, they spent little time together over the 13 years. Seated in front of the artists are Mabel Jackson, Jo White, christened the “Mother of *The Saint John’s Bible,*” and Donald Jackson.
The Class of '68 paves the way into “retirement” for baby boomers

They are the first baby boomers—born in 1946 and graduating from SJU in 1968. Their world changed dramatically between their freshman and senior years as Vietnam, the sexual revolution and civil rights made headlines. Now it’s 2011, and they’re turning 65, the official age of retirement. What’s it like?

Their generation is one of the largest and possibly the most analyzed, admired and criticized in U.S. history. As the first wave of baby boomers—among them members of SJU’s Class of 1968—reaches the “official” retirement age of 65, six Johnnies on this leading edge find themselves less concerned about career ladders and more focused on staying healthy and active, being politically engaged, writing poetry, pursuing adventure and leaving a legacy they can be proud of.

Harris Mills and John Guild both retired at least a decade ago and have reinvented themselves based on changed priorities. Ten years ago, Larry Hergott transitioned from practicing medicine to teaching it, giving him a less demanding work life that’s still professionally fulfilling. And Paul Steingraeber, who retired just a year ago, is still winding down from a lengthy career in one of medicine’s most demanding specialties. Professional life still holds its allure, however, for Michael Haider and Michael Billion, neither of whom have retirement plans in sight.

Second Acts

Steingraeber follows the traditional pattern of retiring at 65. After a 40-year practice as an OB/Gyn in LaCrosse, Wisc., he says he was ready for a less demanding schedule, in part because “the practice of medicine has changed drastically. It’s become much more of a business.”

He is taking each day as it comes and catching up on personal priorities like family and a new grandchild, Steingraeber says. “Life is slowing down, and it’s a relief after 40 years that were pretty hectic for me. I’m happy to have time to reflect and enjoy the relative peace of not having my day completely structured as it has been for many years.”

Guild took early retirement from his position as vice president of stores merchandising for Target in part because he had witnessed close family members battle terminal cancer. “My wife and I were both healthy and had dreams of what we wanted to do with the rest of our lives, and retiring early was financially feasible,” he explains.
His approach to retirement was business-like—plan, plan, plan. Much of that planning took place in the year before he retired on what he and his wife, Jane, called their “dream swing,” where they would sit and relax after a long day of work and “talk about what we saw for ourselves and our future.”

“We talked about ways we could reinvent ourselves, live on the edge a bit and push ourselves outside of our comfort zone,” he explains. For the Guilds, that meant buying Harleys and motorcycling around Europe and the U.S., learning to scuba dive and taking family diving trips. They also consciously made family and a close circle of friends a priority.

Mills also retired early and has been pursuing his passions for music, writing, poetry, political activism and nature. After retiring at 53 from 30 years as a DNR conservation officer, Mills cared for his aged and ill parents until their deaths and did advocacy work for nursing home residents. Today he’s an environmental social activist living in Grand Marais, Minn. He “spends a lot of time writing letters to people in positions of power about things they should be paying attention to.”

He sees himself as a Catholic environmental activist, writing poetry and letters on environmental issues, “hoping to make the connection between personal lifestyles, first option for the poor and care for God’s creation.”

Though he has been technically retired for more than a decade, “I don’t think of myself as retired,” Mills explains. “The work I am doing now I consider the most important work of my life, and I’m doing it at my own pace. And that is a great gift.”

Not Yet…

Hergott didn’t retire, but instead chose “lifestyle over income” when he transitioned from cardiologist to professor of cardiology at the University of Colorado Medical School. He appreciates his more relaxed and flexible schedule.

“I can control more of my time. And I like the idea that I’m not in the context of life where I have to work harder or where someone wants me to work harder,” he says.

In retrospect, Hergott realizes that his less demanding position also gave him more time to spend with his son Zach, who died tragically and unexpectedly in 2009. “The decisions you make in life often have unpredictable consequences—good and bad.” For him, that time was a priceless gift.

Billion is on his second career. In 1990, while practicing as a CPA, he decided to put his law degree to use as a tax lawyer. “Ultimately I will retire,” says Billion, “but for now I’m planning to work until I’m 70 or beyond, as most do in the legal profession. And in this economic environment many baby boomers can’t afford to retire,” he adds.
Though he’s not eager to retire, Billion says he does appreciate the fact that he has “certain freedoms and options for what I want to do because my commitments in life are basically handled. And if I wanted to, I could get by with a diminished lifestyle. But I’m enjoying life and I’m in good health and not hampered by any maladies, so I am thankful for that.”

Haider still has definite career goals, especially if those goals lead to improved patient outcomes. He is CEO of Twin Cities-based BioE, a biotech firm focused on developing technologies to enable stem-cell therapies from umbilical cord blood and bone marrow.

“I haven’t figured out a definite plan for retiring because I get incredible personal enjoyment out of the work I do, and I have aspirations to take BioE to the next level,” he explains.

Haider has made his career pursuing cutting-edge technology that often challenges accepted norms. He muses that it was the exceptional teachers at Saint John’ and classes like philosophy that whet his

Harris Mills retired from the DNR as a conservation officer after 30 years and now devotes his time to Catholic environmental activism. “I like to think our legacy as a generation isn’t written yet, and the best effort is yet to come,” he says.

Tumultous Times

Vietnam War protests, the sexual revolution and civil rights activism: The Class of 1968 spent their college years in the midst of dramatic events and change. How did these society-changing movements echo in tiny Collegeville, isolated—and insulated—in central Minnesota?

The War in Vietnam

As early as 1966, students at SJU and CSB were protesting against the war in Vietnam. SJU’s own Senator Eugene McCarthy ’35 entered the ring as an antiwar candidate, galvanizing “clean for Gene” students, including those from his alma mater.
The Sexual Revolution

SJU and CSB were either liberated or scandalized, depending on one’s outlook, by events on campus in the late 60s such as a performance of the Twin Cities’ Firehouse Theater, which included nudity, and the increase interaction between the male and female students, who by then were attending co-ed classes on both campuses.

Civil Rights Activism

Black students became more of a presence on campuses across the country in the late 1960s. In the fall of 1968, there were about 25 blacks at SJU. They founded the Organization of Afro-American Students to develop black unity and promote black culture in the community.

Once a Johnnie, Always a Johnnie

All six alumni use words like “brotherhood,” “camaraderie” and “strong bonds” to describe relationships with classmates they’ve maintained for decades or renewed in recent years.

Hergott especially values connections with football teammates. “Going 11-0 and winning the national championship my sophomore year—what an incredible experience for a young man!”

“My relationship with Saint John’s has become more of a treasure to me over time, even though I’m hardly ever there,” Hergott continues. “It’s an enlightening and nurturing haven in the middle of a forest in the middle of a distracted world.”

The atmosphere at Saint John’s in the late 60s was sometimes distracted and chaotic, but Mills recalls that “Saint John’s provided a secure environment, a needed touchstone.” The fear and insecurity in the country, fed by things like wearing identity bracelets in case of nuclear war, building fallout shelters and the appetite for questioning and challenging rules and expectations. “Doing something for the first time, that’s what’s exciting to me and has fed my interest in the challenge of innovation,” he explains. “The monks did a good job of challenging us to think for ourselves, even though that fed into us students challenging authority on campus at a level never before seen at SJU.”

“… having experienced things like the Vietnam War and the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. in the core part of our lives, has caused us to evaluate and re-evaluate what’s important to us and what is our legacy.” —John Guild

Historical research by CSB/SJU archivist Peggy Roske CSB ’77. For an in-depth campus history of this era, go to csbsju.edu/SJU-in-the-Sixties.
Cuban missile crisis, “helped lay the seeds for the great rebellion on the part of my generation. JFK’s assassination really left a mark on people my age—then Vietnam, hippie drug culture, publishing of Silent Spring that started environmental movement. And in 1968, the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy, racial and labor turmoil, and even within the Catholic Church there was turmoil surrounding Vatican II.”

Billion recalls conversations with freshmen classmates just after the U.S. had authorized troops to return hostile fire in Vietnam. The students speculated that the Vietnam conflict would most likely be over by the time they graduated. But five years later, Billion found himself serving in Vietnam. A chance meeting with Toke Welder ’67 in an Army chapel in Vietnam likely kept him from serving on the front lines as a replacement for the casualties incurred at the bloody battle of Hamburger Hill.

“The monks did a good job of challenging us to think for ourselves, even though that fed into us students challenging authority on campus at a level never before seen at SJU.”

—Michael Haider

The Vietnam War had a significant impact on the oldest cohort of this generation. Billion served a year in Vietnam, and with many of his peers experienced the challenges of returning from serving in an “unpopular war.” Having parents who were both World War II veterans, he had witnessed how they were held up as heroes. “It took 20 to 30 years to recognize the sacrifices made by Vietnam War veterans,” he says.

Boomer Stereotypes?

Being baby boomers has taken on more meaning for most of these men as they’ve matured, and they share a respect for the generation that preceded theirs. “My parents and their generation had some hard times—the Depression, World War II and the Korean War,” comments Steingraeber. “Our generation didn't experience the privation or economic and social traumas that our parents did. We've been lucky as a generation. In terms of material wealth, medical progress and improvement in health, we have come a long way. But I'm not sure that pace of change or progress can be sustained. The rest of the world has not had the opportunities that we've had.”

Guild dismisses the boomer stereotype of the irresponsible Woodstock hippie or greedy, self-centered generation. “Perhaps being a part of Saint John’s gave me and so many of my peers a strong work ethic, a sense of self-reliance, a sense of commitment and strong family values. Those
attributes are characteristic of the generation I grew up with. And having experienced things like the Vietnam War and the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. in the core part of our lives has caused us to evaluate and re-evaluate what’s important to us and what is our legacy,” he adds.

Like his classmates, Hergott feels indebted to the generation preceding the Boomers for the sacrifices they made. He’s unsure of the impact and legacy of his own generation. “The past two decades was our era of influence. We were in charge of a lot of success and a lot of change, and a lot of good has been done,” he explains. “But I think the success has been more in the material sense. In a more soulful way I think we’ve fallen short. There are more broken families, more poverty and greed, educational and economic decline, and the overt partisan animosity which is a manifestation of the isolation and segmentation of our society. And all of these things are in violation of Benedictine principles.”

“Being a baby boomer has tremendous meaning, more so than we are able to understand,” adds Mills. “I think it’s too soon to be able to identify our legacy. Our era has been one of unprecedented economic growth with a strong infrastructure. It was a golden era that led to an unrealistic view of American individualism, our way of life and place in the world.

“I like to think our legacy as a generation isn’t written yet and the best effort is yet to come,” Mills continues. “We had the benefit of old values, a great education and easy employment opportunities. We now have income and freedom from the burdens of raising a family. I now see that we have opportunities for political and social activism. We have the ability and means to make a real difference and to make real changes, and to bring American Catholics out of secularist values back to Catholic community values.”

As these Saint John’s alumni embark on the next chapters in their lives, they are thoughtful about their time and their choices. Their time on campus was unique, dramatic and inspiring, and clearly integrated Benedictine values into their worldviews. For some, their current stage of life allows for full discovery of parts of themselves left less developed during the height of their careers. They are able to get back to the ideas introduced to them at Saint John’s—balance, community, spirituality and engagement.

And most would agree with Haider, who says, “I don’t see any reason to throttle back as long as my health and mental faculties hold out.”

“Our generation didn’t experience the privations or economic and social traumas that our parents did. We’ve been lucky as a generation.” —Paul Steingraeber

Paul Steingraeber took the traditional route of retiring officially at 65. After 40 years as an OB/Gyn, he reports that “I’m happy to have time to reflect and enjoy the relative peace of not having my day completely structured as it has been for many years.”
The Doors of Saint John's

Can you identify these doors of Saint John's? Check your answers at sjualum.com/publications.

Photos by Michael Crouser '85
Can you identify these doors of Saint John’s? Check your answers at sjualum.com/publications.

Photos by Michael Crouser ’85
It struck on a nondescript Friday afternoon. I was at the hospital, next in line to see my doctor for a regular checkup, when I noticed shaking. Having lived in earthquake-prone Japan for five years, I had grown accustomed to the occasional minor tremor, but this one had more movement to it and grew gradually more intense. I started walking around, listening to creaking metal and shaking windows, completely unsure of what to do. For several minutes, it felt like being on a rope bridge with no destination and nothing to hold on to.

By Tom Kain ’05

It felt like being on a rope bridge with no destination and nothing to hang on to...

After the initial earthquake subsided, I joined others in the hospital who flocked to a television to watch live reports of the action. We learned that the epicenter of the quake was near Sendai, a city of around 1 million located about 200 miles north of Tokyo. At that point, I was relieved to know that the quake had not been a direct hit on Tokyo. At the same time, I realized that if the shaking in Tokyo was the most violent I had ever felt, the damage near the epicenter must have been unthinkable.
The streets in Tokyo are always crowded, but when I left the hospital and turned the corner, I found myself in a river of people streaming out of the city on foot, past empty, idle trains and cars stuck in one massive traffic jam. It finally hit me: this went far beyond what residents of Japan were prepared to deal with. This was bound to take a dramatic physical and psychological toll.

There were many other CSB/SJU alumni in Tokyo that day.

Wakaba Nobori CSB ’06, who grew up in Okinawa, Japan, had received earthquake training and experienced many earthquakes in the past. She reacted calmly, thinking that “this time also it would stop sooner.” When it didn’t, she took shelter under a desk.

Kathy Kampa Vilina CSB ’83, a music/dance/English specialist at an international school in western Tokyo, was getting students ready to go home when the earthquake hit. She immediately thought “this is it—the big one.” Despite thorough training and one co-worker’s efforts to keep things light by comparing the shaking to “the rides at Disneyland,” the falling objects and ominous low rumbling sounds made it a terrifying time for all.

The author, Tom Kain ’05, with his wife, Megumi, and daughter, Sara. The Kains spent the days after the earthquake at Megumi’s family’s house in Saitama, northwest of Tokyo. But life quickly went back to normal—Tom returning to work as an instructor at Bunkyo Gakuin University and translator, and Megumi spending most of her time taking care of Sara, who celebrated her first birthday in August.
Aaron Toussaint ’05, meanwhile, was on the 24th floor of a high-rise building in Tokyo. Skyscrapers in the country are designed to sway when shaking occurs, and Aaron’s building did just that, making it feel like “being on a boat in rough seas,” he remembers.

Comprehensive earthquake training and sound engineering undoubtedly saved lives, but no amount of preparedness was enough to dispel the unique brand of anxiety that earthquakes can produce.

After the earthquake, phone services were jammed due to a combination of damaged equipment and millions of people attempting to place calls at the same time. “For me,” Aaron says, “the waiting and uncertainty after the quake was

What I am experiencing now is a lot better than what they [tsunami victims] are going through. Thinking of them made me not want to do anything fun.

—Wakaba Nobori CSB ’06
much more unnerving than the earthquake itself.” Most railway services in Tokyo were suspended until late that night, forcing Wakaba, Kathy, Aaron and me, and countless others to find alternative ways home: some resigned themselves to walking many lonely miles on packed streets, while others decided to try to find shelter and wait. Numerous powerful aftershocks kept people under a cloud of constant anxiety—Kathy and her family slept with their shoes on that night so that they were ready to evacuate at any time. We were all exhausted, isolated, nervous and uninformed about the actual scope of the disaster. Aaron and I only learned of the tsunami, which leveled entire cities and killed over 10,000 people, late that night. When we finally saw footage from the affected areas, we were devastated.

We began to hear that the massive effects of the earthquake and tsunami stretched far beyond the actual “natural” damage.

News sources began reporting that the cooling systems at the Fukushima I Nuclear Power Plant had been knocked out and the facilities were in danger of a meltdown. As radiation levels around the plant began to soar, forcing mass evacuations, and a diminished power supply triggered blackouts throughout eastern Japan, the climate of fear and anxiety thickened. Much of the worry arose from the sense that the situation was totally out of our control: the threat of contamination was an invisible, unfamiliar one that the Japanese government, television stations, and other media each handled differently, adding to the confusion. “No one really understood what was happening,” Aaron says.

Widespread power outages and the constant fear of the next big aftershock, which could come at any moment, also kept people constantly on edge. “For a while,” Wakaba says, “I carried around a backpack with all the important items, and set my shoes and a coat beside my bed every night.” The disaster created an amalgam of tension that made deciding how to act an even more daunting challenge.

Aaron Toussaint ’05 with his father, Joe Toussaint ’74. Aaron works for a marketing research company based in Tokyo and was on the 24th floor of a Tokyo skyscraper when the earthquake hit. He recalls that the building swayed, as it was supposed to, making it feel like “being on a boat in high seas.” Aaron spent some time in Nagoya, a city in central Japan, west of Tokyo, after the quake but is now back. He didn’t use his air conditioning despite the summer heat in order to help save electricity while Japan works to reestablish its power grid in the wake of the disaster.

Japan will not collapse from this tragedy, and I am proud to call Tokyo my home, and its people my neighbors. Recent events have only strengthened this pride.

—Aaron Toussaint ’05
and broadcast in their home countries. Clearly, the spotty reliability of information and the divergent angles adopted by some media organizations generated uneasiness both in Japan and abroad.

Faced with these concerns, we had important decisions to make.

Do we relocate temporarily to another city in Japan until the nuclear problem is resolved? Should we return to our home countries and assuage our families’—and our own—fears? Or do we stay put and try to remain confident that everything will blow over? Kathy and her family first traveled to Nagoya, about 160 miles west of Tokyo, and then decided to return to St. Cloud over their spring vacation. My Japanese wife and I chose to stay at her family’s house with our young daughter, Sara, and monitor the news closely. Aaron also went to Nagoya, in part to reassure his girlfriend and her family, who were far away in Germany and very concerned. Wakaba, despite her family’s pleas, knew that quitting her job in Tokyo and returning to Okinawa might not be the best option, so she also decided to stay.

Regardless of our individual responses, we all went through a major disaster that changed us and our surroundings. Kathy could not escape the memories of that afternoon: “I could feel my muscles tightening up when an aftershock would begin. Even when we arrived in Minnesota, the sound of the wind was reminiscent of the sound I experienced in the quake.” Returning from Nagoya to Tokyo, Aaron was greeted by a city transformed: “The lack of power disrupted trains and business. No more neon lights, no more lights at all in many areas … This very visible change in the Tokyo landscape had a powerful psychological effect.” The most powerful of all, however, were the ubiquitous videos and images of the disaster area: cars, boats, and entire houses being carried away by the tsunami, seas of rubble that used to be towns, crying mothers saying the names of their missing husbands and children into the camera in hopes of somehow being reunited. “Watching made me feel deeply heartbroken,” Wakaba says. “What I am experiencing now is a lot better than what they are going through. Thinking of them made me not want to do anything fun.” For Kathy, the images were a new window on the Japanese character: “I have rarely seen a Japanese person express emotion publicly, but the quake pushed many people to utter despair.”
Japanese student Kunihiro Shimoji ’13 and friends helped launch an earthquake-relief effort on campus last spring. Guided by the slogan “work as one and make a difference,” students, faculty, staff and the local community donated more than $4,000 to benefit the Japan Red Cross.

Despite all the destruction and anxiety, one constant was the remarkable will, determination and grace of the Japanese people in the wake of the disaster.

In the disaster zone, tens of thousands of people have lost their loved ones, their homes, and their livelihoods, but they remain committed to rebuilding their lives one step at a time, in a respectful and orderly way that is deeply admirable. Watching TV, Kathy was amazed at “how patiently evacuees waited in line and felt appreciative of even a small amount of rice.” Japanese residents have worked to reduce power consumption so that the affected areas can get the energy they need. Donations have poured in from all over Japan and the rest of the world. We know that the gravity of the disaster cannot be confined to local boundaries—and that we must not let it provoke the selfish, reactionary or manipulative behavior that it very well could.

Japan’s efforts to remain hopeful and positive have stirred powerful emotions: “Japan is still here,” Aaron says. “Japan will not collapse from this tragedy, and I am proud to call Tokyo my home and its people my neighbors. Recent events have only strengthened this pride.” The recovery process will require unity, sacrifice and perseverance to heal wounds that for many are still all too fresh. Japan is faced with immeasurable challenges, but its composure and dignity since the disaster have fostered faith and hope everywhere.

Trinity Benedictine Monastery is a Benedictine community sponsored by Saint John’s Abbey in the mountains of Fujimi. During the earthquake, the monastery shook violently for three to four minutes followed by repeated aftershocks. Br. Maria Dominic Takahashi, OSB, a monastery member from the fishing village of Ogawa, lost his mother and sister to the tsunami caused by the earthquake.

Thomas Kain ’05 lives in Saitama, Japan, a suburb of Tokyo, where he teaches English at Bunkyo Gakuin University and runs a translation company.
Learning Commons Receives Boost from Regents

Members of the Saint John’s University Board of Regents continue to lead the way on funding for the Saint John’s Learning Commons. A year ago, a Regent who wishes to remain anonymous made a $1 million commitment to this building project. This spring a handful of others followed suit with major gifts to the Learning Commons. Donors include the Chair of the Board, Ann Huntrods, and her husband Terry; Don and Kitty Schumacher ’65; Steve and Cindy Armstrong ’72; Bernie and Jody Dan ’83; and Ken and Betsy Roering ’64.

“I am deeply grateful to members of the Board of Regents for their leadership and generosity to the Learning Commons,” commented Bob Koopmann, OSB, President of Saint John’s University. “This project is critically important to the future of Saint John’s. It will help transform the quality of student learning, and it is crucial to our admissions and enrollment efforts.”

The Saint John’s Learning Commons is a dynamic, state-of-the-art academic facility that fosters integrated thinking and engaged learning and research. It will also enable students, faculty and scholars to gain access to the vast information resources of the world.

This 105,000-square-foot, $25 million project will include:

- Grand Commons and other gathering spaces
- Classrooms, seminar and conference rooms
- Individual and group study spaces
- Writing center
- Technology center
- Digital media production tools
- Expert research advisers
- Rare book and special collections rooms

(L to R) Ann Huntrods, Don and Kitty Schumacher ’65, Ken and Betsy Roering ’64, Bernie Dan ’83, Steve and Cindy Armstrong ’72
Krumps Make Generous Planned Gift to Scholarship Fund

Paul Krump SJU ’82, a member of the Saint John’s Board of Regents, and his wife Anne Marie Schmidt-Krump, CSB ’82, have made a $2 million pledge to Saint John’s University and the College of Saint Benedict in support of an endowed scholarship fund. The gift comes in the form of a single premium life insurance policy. Upon maturity, it will be split between Saint John’s and Saint Ben’s. The portion for SJU will be designated to the Paul and Anne Marie Krump Endowed Scholarship Fund, which they originally established at Saint John’s in 2005.

“We are deeply grateful to Paul and Anne for this remarkable expression of their faith in our future,” commented Bob Koopmann, OSB, president of Saint John’s University. “This gift is significant in several respects. First, student scholarships are our highest priority, and this gift will help educate Johnnies far into the future. Second, this is the first million-dollar commitment that Saint John’s has received from an alumnus who graduated in the 1980s, and it will undoubtedly pave the way for similar gifts to follow.”

“We are very grateful for the wonderful Benedictine liberal arts educations we received at SJU and CSB,” commented Krump. “Through our support of this scholarship fund, we seek to support future generations of students. It’s our wish that the schools continue to prosper together through their unique working relationship.”

“Paul and Anne have a deep reverence for the Benedictine tradition that they find at Saint John’s, and those values inspire their lives both at home and work,” observed long-time friend of the family, Eric Hollas, OSB. “In the Benedictine spirit they’ve looked far into the future, to insure that others can have the same opportunity. And we are grateful for their generosity!”

Hill Museum & Manuscript Library Awarded $3 Million Grant from Arcadia Fund

The Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) recently received a $3 million grant from the Arcadia Fund to support HMML’s digitization, archiving and cataloguing of newly identified endangered manuscript collections through 2016. Arcadia grant funds will also make these digitized materials freely available to users in the place of origin and in the United States.

Formerly the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund, Arcadia is a grant-making fund established in 2001. Since 2009, Arcadia’s key mission is to protect endangered culture and nature. This includes protecting nearly extinct languages, rare historical archives and museum quality artifacts, and the protection of ecosystems and environments threatened with extinction.

HMML’s commitment to manuscript preservation is the core of the Library’s mission and service. Since 2003, HMML’s field operatives have traveled to endangered manuscript collections in Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Ethiopia, India, and Iraq to create high-quality digital surrogates of each manuscript. HMML is still actively engaged in preservation fieldwork in eight locations in seven countries throughout that region.

“The owners of these collections do not have the resources to do the work themselves,” said Columba Stewart, OSB, executive director of HMML. “Some collections, especially those in the Middle East, are concerned with larger issues of survival and may no longer exist twenty-five years from now. The efforts of HMML ensure that, at the very least, digital copies of the manuscripts will survive for future generations.”

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Paul Krump is the President of Commercial and Specialty lines at The Chubb Corporation, headquartered in New Jersey. From 2005 to 2008, he has served as the Regional Chair for the Saint John’s capital campaign in the New York area, and in 2007 he received an Alumni Achievement Award from Saint John’s University.

Paul and Anne have three kids. The oldest, Emily, graduated from the College of Saint Benedict in 2006.
Alex Fulton ’12 Attacks the Net and Multivariable Calculus

By John Taylor ’58

Alex Fulton ’12 is serious, committed to the life of the mind and a great athlete. A senior lacrosse attacker and natural science major with a concentration in physics and math, he chose SJU because it met his dual requirements—intellectual and athletic. It offered the academic challenge he was looking for, and it had a great lacrosse team.

His coach, Derek Daehn, reports that Fulton, a two-year captain “…never misses practice, is a team leader on and off the field and has a tremendous work ethic.” During the past season, he scored 27 goals and 16 assists for 43 points. The Johnnies took the Upper Midwest Lacrosse League DII championship and lost in the quarterfinals to the Dayton Flyers. They ended the season with an 8-2 conference record and 15-5 overall record.

At Mahtomedi High School, in Mahtomedi, Minn., Fulton was a three-year letter winner in hockey. He played small: “I used good positioning and making smart plays to keep away from the bigger guys.” He was also a three-year lacrosse varsity member, making academic all-conference as a junior and senior.

He began at Saint John’s as a pre-med student, changing to his current major in his sophomore year. After graduation, he’s headed for graduate school in either mechanical or civil engineering, for which he feels well prepared.

“I have had some really great teachers here, like physics professors Sarah Yost, Dean Langley and Jim Crumley,” Fulton says. “Jim laid out graduate packets for those who want to go on in engineering—he has been very helpful. Theology prof Kim Belcher’s class on God, Christ and the Sacraments was very interesting.

“However, the highlight of my undergraduate experience has been Kris Nairn in math. It’s really great when you have a teacher that you instantly relate to. I had her in multivariable calculus. She kept pushing me in class. She also was a great influence to go on to graduate school.

“I also appreciate the presence of the monks about campus and in the residence halls. A favorite of mine is Father Michael Kwatera. He is a Faculty Resident in Patrick Hall and is always available to talk about spiritual aspects of life.”

gojohnnies.com
BASKETBALL (14-11, 10-10 MIAC) finished seventh in the MIAC. Aaron Burtzel ’11 was named to the D3hoops.com All-America team and All-West region first team. He ended his career with 1,153 points, 887 rebounds, 393 assists and 135 steals with a .598 shooting percentage (432-for-723). Burtzel was named All-MIAC for the third consecutive season, while Andy Burns ’12 was named honorable mention for the second straight year. Aaron Barmore ’11 earned MIAC All-Sportsmanship honors for the second consecutive season. Head coach Jim Smith ended his 47th season as a collegiate head coach with a 727-510 career record (.588).

BASEBALL (19-14, 13-7 MIAC) finished fourth, making its fourth MIAC Tournament appearance. Pitcher Hayden Zimmerman ’12 pitched a no-hitter in a 3-0 victory over Saint Mary’s on April 21. The no-hitter is the first for SJU since 1998 and the fourth under head coach Jerry Haugen’s 34-year tenure. Haugen ended the season with a 636-551-5 (.536) career record. Shortstop Matt Butorac ’11, pitcher/second baseman Brett Kramer ’11 and outfielder Alex Powell ’13 were named All-MIAC. Catcher Brian Skluzacek ’11 was named to the MIAC All-Defensive Team for the second consecutive season. Butorac and Kramer were both named to the 2011 American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) All-Midwest Region second team.

GOLF tied for third out of 40 teams at the 2011 NCAA Division III Golf Championship. Dennis Granath ’13 was named to the Division III Ping All-America first team. Tony Krogen ’12 was named the MIAC Player of the Year for the second straight season. Casey Vangsness ’14 was named the MIAC Freshman of the Year and head coach Bob Alpers was named the MIAC Coach of the Year for the third consecutive season (ninth overall) this spring. Vangsness was also named the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) Central Region Freshman of the Year and Alex Klehr ’12 was named a Division III Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-America Scholar.

HOCKEY (6-17-2, 5-9-2 MIAC) finished 3-3-2 against the top four teams in the MIAC. Trent Johnson ’14 was named to the All-MIAC All-Rookie team, while Grant Ellena ’11, Joe Harren ’13 and Mike Wallgren ’11 were named All-MIAC honorable mention. Conor Rooney ’12 was named to the MIAC All-Sportsmanship team.

NORDIC SKIING ended its season with a strong finish at the American Birkebeiner in Cable, Wis. Kellen Witschen ’14 led the Johnnies with a seventh-place finish out of 1,514 skiers in the 54k race. Adam Johnson ’11 and Jared Sundstrom ’11 followed in 10th and 11th, respectively.

SWIMMING AND DIVING finished fourth out of eight at the 2011 MIAC Swimming and Diving Championships. Mando Moss ’14 won the conference title in the 50- and 100-yard freestyles. Moss, Ty Nimens ’12, Josh Seaburg ’12 and Michael Williams ’11 won the MIAC championship in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Seaburg also earned All-MIAC honors (top three) with a third-place finish in the 400-yard individual medley. Wes Schlichting ’12 and Marcus Rien ’11 took second and third, respectively, in the 3-meter dive. The Johnnies finished 40th out of 49 teams at the 2011 NCAA Division III Championships.

WRESTLING sent seven Johnnies to the 2011 NCAA Division III Championships and finished sixth out of 60 teams with a total of five All-Americans. Both the number of All-Americans and the team’s finish are program bests at an NCAA meet. Minga Batsukh ’11 became the first Johnnie to claim three national titles, regardless of sport, with a 7-4 win over Augsburg. He was awarded the tournament’s prestigious Outstanding Wrestler award for his performance and later earned D3wrestle.com National Wrestler of the Year honors. Dustin Baxter ’12 finished third at 184 lbs., Matt Baarson ’11 claimed fourth at 165 lbs., and both Chad Henle ’12 and Matt Pfarr ’12 took seventh at 133 and 174 lbs., respectively.
Crevoiserat ’81 to Receive Reger Award

Brian Crevoiserat ‘81 is this year’s recipient of the Fr. Walter Reger Distinguished Alumnus Award. The award salutes a key alumnus in the name of Fr. Walter Reger, OSB (1894-1971)—teacher, prefect, dean, long-time secretary of the Alumni Association and friend to legions of Johnnies. Known as “Mr. Saint John’s,” he directed the Annual Fund and was the first to promote Johnnie Bread on behalf of the university.

Brian Crevoiserat rarely leaves home without wearing his Saint John’s lapel pin. It serves not only as a visible sign of Crevoiserat’s passion for SJU but often begins a conversation—whether he is referring a prospective student, mentoring a Johnnie intern in his office or serving on an alumni committee.

Crevoiserat will be wearing his pin to the SJU Homecoming banquet on Friday, Sept. 23, when he will be honored with the Fr. Walter Reger Distinguished Alumnus Award. The Reger Award is the highest honor given by the Alumni Association in recognition of service to alma mater.

Crevoiserat has spent the last 21 years at Wells Fargo Bank (formerly Norwest), where he currently serves as senior vice president and national sales executive. He and his wife, Joy, have three children—ages 13, 14 and 17—and are active community volunteers with their church, community and of course, Saint John’s. Brian served on the SJU Alumni Association Board as president from 1996-97. He also represented the Alumni Association Board on the SJU Board of Regents and was a leadership volunteer for the capital campaign One Generation to the Next.

In addition, Brian has been an invaluable networking resource for current students and fellow alumni. He has combined his passion for networking with his passion for Johnnie football by establishing a popular LinkedIn site for SJU football alumni.

“Brian has loved Saint John’s from the moment he set foot on campus,” said Cary Musech ’80, who succeeded Brian as Alumni Association Board president. “He’s put his heart and soul into supporting the institution both with time and financially. He’s made SJU his passion.”

Neal Binsfeld ’81 to Receive Basten Award

Neal Binsfeld ’81 distinguished himself as a Saint John’s student-athlete by being named to the all-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference three times as a linebacker (1978-80) and three more times as a baseball catcher or designated hitter (1978, ’79, ’81).

With his wife, Jeannie, Binsfeld has distinguished himself as a dedicated father of eleven children—eight of them adopted. All of their adopted children deal with developmental and/or physical challenges.

In 2004, the Binsfelds partnered with ADOPT US Kids, traveling across the western United States to highlight the need for permanent homes for special needs children waiting for adoptive families.

The Binsfelds have also launched their own non-profit, Creating Connections East2West, collaborating with the Catholic Church in Zanzibar and medical NGOs to help highlight adoption programs.

Binsfeld currently works as a disability coordinator in the Office of Equity and Diversity at the University of Minnesota.

The Basten Excellence in Leadership Award will be presented to Binsfeld at halftime of the Homecoming football game on Sept. 24.
The Johnnie alumni network is alive and well, according to David Rom ’91, the new president of the SJU Alumni Association Board. “My primary objective as Alumni Board President is to continue to grow the ways alumni can connect with each other both personally and professionally,” says Rom, discussing his goals for his presidency.

Rom leads a board of 40 alumni volunteers whose mission is to keep Johnnies connected with each other and the university. Anyone who attended Saint John’s for at least a year is automatically a member of the Alumni Association.

The Alumni Association Board is involved in a wide range of activities including recruiting and mentoring students, alumni events, reunion and homecoming, alumni recognition and supporting alumni chapters, class committees and the Annual Fund.

To learn more about getting involved with Alumni Association activities, call Adam Herbst ’99, director of alumni relations, 320-363-3819, or email aherbst@csbsju.edu.
Johnnies in the Media

Bill Kling '64 was featured in the cover story of City Pages in June. Kling retired July 1 after more than 40 years at Minnesota Public Radio, beginning in 1967 at KSJR in Collegeville. He plans to spend the next five years with National Public Radio, devoting himself to fundraising and increasing newsroom staff.

Jeb Myers '97, principal of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Minneapolis, was interviewed on WCCO-TV in celebration of Cristo Rey’s first graduating class. The school is part of a national network of schools—and the only one in Minnesota—where students work one day a week to gain professional experience. More than 90 percent of the first graduating class will be attending college this fall.

Tom Lais ’76 commutes to work daily on his bicycle, 18 miles each way, regardless of the weather. The Minneapolis Star Tribune took notice of Lais’ efforts in a January feature story. “I know where every coffee shop is between home and work. It’s the way things used to be,” says Lais.

Anthony Ruff ’86, OSB, CSB/SJU associate professor of theology, wrote an open letter to American bishops in critique of the new English-language translation of the Roman Missal. Ruff’s call for a more transparent process was noted in several major news sources including The New York Times.

Mike Caputa ’99 was named news director of WCCO-TV in Minneapolis in January. MInnPost.com reported Caputa’s appointment and quoted WCCO-TV vice president and general manager Brien Kennedy: “Mike has earned this opportunity through hard work and dedication and I look forward to working with him as we continue to grow our position in this great state.”

Dan Bastian ’90 and his wife, Angie, co-founders of Mankato, Minnesota-based Angie’s Kettle Corn, were featured on “The Martha Stewart Show” in January. The Bastians shared their entrepreneurial story with Martha while demonstrating how to make the stovetop version of their kettle corn.

Big John ’10, one of the Common loons on Lake Sagatagan at Saint John’s, made headlines in various radio programs and newspapers across the country. Big John was the only Minnesota loon monitored by a United States Geological Survey project tracking the migration patterns of loons. A monitoring device was surgically implanted in John, tracking him traveling as far as the Gulf of Mexico and back. He returned the day the ice thawed in Collegeville.

Matt Logelin ’00 appeared on The New York Times Best Sellers List for his book Two Kisses for Maddy, which peaked at 14 in the e-book non-fiction section in May. Logelin’s wife, Liz, died the day after giving birth to their daughter, Maddy. In this memoir, he reflects on his courtship and marriage to Liz, the support Maddy provided him, and the online community of strangers that became his friends.
2011 Homecoming & Class Reunion
September 23-25

Welcomes the classes of
1961 1960 & Beyond

SJUreunion.com

Hosted by the Alumni Association

sjualum.com
SJU Men’s Chorus
Performs across the Nation

A 63-year Saint John’s tradition continued this spring break as the Men’s Chorus made its annual national tour to Washington, D.C.

The tuxedo-clad group performed both sacred and secular music during their concerts, the majority of which were held in churches. Choir director Dr. Theimer concluded each concert by inviting alumni to join the chorus on stage to sing the “Johnnie Fight Song.”

Host families, many of them alumni, warmly opened their homes to chorus members, providing free bed and breakfast.

Alumni were impressed and moved by the chorus’s talent. “We were so proud because we had brought some friends who are music aficionados and they too were impressed,” writes John Chromy ’64, who, with his wife, Nora, attended a performance at our Lady of Mercy Church in Potomac, Maryland.

The Chromys hosted two choir members. Chromy reports that “they were a delight, good fun to visit with, and Nora was impressed because they made their beds and folded all their towels.”

...we were delightfully stunned by the quality of the performance.

~John Chromy ’64

The SJU Men’s Chorus performed at ten locations nationwide during spring break. The chorus is pictured here at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Potomac, Md. Alumni joined them on stage for a rousing rendition of the “Johnnie Fight Song.”

CSB/SJU Fine Arts Calendar

Gare St. Lazare Players Ireland
The End—Samuel Beckett
Thursday, Sept. 22, 8 p.m.
Stephen B. Humphrey Theater
SJU

Gare St. Lazare Players Ireland
Moby Dick—Herman Melville
Friday, Sept. 23, 8 p.m.
Stephen B. Humphrey Theater
SJU

Jane Monheit Jazz Cabaret
Friday, Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m,
9:30 p.m.
Gorecki Family Theater, CSB

A Reading by Seamus Heaney
presented by CSB Literary Arts Institute
Sunday, Oct. 2, 2 p.m.
Escher Auditorium, CSB

Christopher O’Riley
& the CSB/SJU Orchestra
Saturday, Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Escher Auditorium, CSB

Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder
The Treasure Chest Tour
Saturday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m.
Escher Auditorium, CSB

The Second City
Saturday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m.
Escher Auditorium, CSB

Bella Gaia
Saturday, Nov. 5, 8 p.m.
Stephen B. Humphrey Theater
SJU

Intergalactic Nemesis
Friday, Nov. 11, 8 p.m.
Stephen B. Humphrey Theater
SJU

Minnesota Ballet presents
The Manhattan Nutcracker
Saturday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Escher Auditorium, CSB

Natalie MacMaster
Christmas in Cape Breton
Thursday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Escher Auditorium, CSB

For tickets, contact the box office at 320-363-5777 or order online at csbsju.edu/fine-arts.

Use this QR code to connect you to the website for tickets.

sjualum.com

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Chicago area alumni and friends met in Wrigleyville in May for lunch and a Cubs game. (For more pictures, go to the Chapters link on sjualum.com.)

**Spotlight on Chicago**

Chicago area alumni and friends descended on Wrigleyville in May to take in lunch and a Cubs game together.

"It is always great weather whenever the SJU crowd gets together," says Mike McIntyre '76, president of the Greater Chicago Area Alumni Chapter. "Great cheer and memories of days gone by. It was awesome to see over 90 attendees at the Cubs event representing six different decades of SJU and CSB graduates! Hopefully we can double the attendance next year."

Under McIntyre’s leadership, the Chicago chapter has been keeping alumni connected through gatherings and events like the Cubs game. It has also supported CSB/SJU admissions by recruiting high school students to Saint John’s and Saint Ben's. Several alumni from the Chicago area have also connected with current students and recent graduates for career conversations and networking.

To learn more about alumni chapters and affinity groups, call Adam Herbst ’99, director of alumni relations, 320-363-3819, or email aberbst@csbsju.edu.

**Take a Johnnie to Lunch**

*By Craig Maki ’98*

The Take a Johnnie to Lunch (TAJTL) program is based on a simple concept: bring an alumnus and current Johnnie together to talk over lunch.

This gives the student a valuable opportunity to hear from an experienced professional about his field. For alumni it can be a rewarding way to give back to alma mater, especially if they aren’t in a position to offer an internship or commit to a more formal mentoring program.

Gabriel Harren ’10, currently working at M-Space, took advantage of TAJTL his senior year. “My lunch experience is where I learned the fundamentals of the profession I knew I wanted to pursue.”

The benefit goes both ways, says former high school principal Tom Yencho ’68. “What a great opportunity for both the alum and the student. We shared Johnnie stories, but we also had a great amount of talk about the field of education and what it would take to be successful today.”

Steve Holupchinski ’78, CFO of Impressions, Inc. comments that “the current Johnnie can get honest, straightforward answers regarding the industry and occupation of his choice from someone whose sole motivation is to help a fellow Johnnie.”

Since the program’s inception in 2009, more than 150 alumni have volunteered and more than 100 connections have been made.

If this whets your appetite for more, go to www.sjualum.com/tajtl.
MILESTONES

Marriages

'96 Sarah (Oleen ‘96) to Chad Carr ‘96, Sept. ‘09
'96 Joy Hemmesch to Jon Ruis ‘96, Oct. ‘10
'98 Mary to Peter Krackenberger ‘98, Oct. ‘10
'99 Taylor Jefferson to Conrad Ellingsworth ‘99, Sept. ‘10
'02 Kris (Randolph ‘02) to Reed Malvick ‘02, June ‘10
'02 Katie Borg to Nicholas Rendahl ‘02, Nov. ‘10
'04 Amanda (Trofholz ‘04) to Jonathan Allinder ‘04, Aug. ‘09
'04 Amanda (Anderson ‘05) to Chris Duffy ‘04, June ‘11
'04 Emily (van der Hagen ‘05) to Richard Martinson ‘04, Oct. ‘10
'05 Courtney (Clark ) to Ian Carpenter ‘05, July ‘10
'05 Kelli (Doschadis ‘04) to Brent Petersen ‘05, Sept. ‘10
'06 Kate (Anderson ‘06) to Sean Abernathy ‘06, Oct. ‘10
'06 Amanda (Kack ‘07) to Lance Flannery ‘06, Aug. ‘10
'06 Sarah (Spaanem ‘06) to Matt Foehrbacher ‘06, Apr. ‘11
'06 Dani (Delwiche ‘07) to Benjamin Oelhafen ‘06, Dec. ‘10
'06 Caseyorton to Adam Putschoegl ‘06, Apr. ‘11
'06 Kristen Lysne to Josh Robinson ‘06, Dec. ‘10
'06 Dana (Gervais ‘06) to Michael Seifert ‘06, May ‘11
'06 Ashley Stover to Damir Tokic ‘06, June ‘11
'06 Kate (Ostlund ‘06) to Andrew Ward ‘06, Oct. ‘10
'07 KristinDonny to Aaron Schwartz ‘07, Apr. ‘11
'07 Sarah (Groebner ‘07) to Stephen Szczzech ‘07, Jan. ‘11
'08 Katie (Ranallo ‘08) to Kevin Boegel ‘08, June ‘11
'08 Nikki (Bender ‘08) to Peter Delisi ‘08, June ‘11
'08 Rebecca Broten to Michael Rubbelke ‘08, Aug. ‘10
'08 Carly (Andresen ‘08) to Ryan Sne ‘08, July ‘09
'08 Nora (Kain ‘07) to Tyler Tholl ‘08, May ‘11
'08 Sarah (Roth ‘08) to Anthony Von Ruden ‘08, Nov. ‘10
'09 Ashley (Fulton ‘10) to Tyler Miller ‘09, July ‘10
'09 Angie (Punton ‘09) to Kyle Punton ‘09, Jan. ‘11
'09 Amber Hiltnor to Alex Wahl ‘09, July ‘10
'10 Steph (Maher ‘10) to Todd Fredrickson ‘10, Aug. ‘10
'10 Katelyn (Mattson ‘10) to Peter Schoen ‘10, Jan. ‘11
'10 Justine Sandstedt to Jordan Urshan ‘10, Sept. ‘10

Births

'81 Julz & Jon Schwingler ‘81, girl, Mary, Nov. ‘10
'91 Ann & Jon Reissner ‘91, twins, Constance & James, Apr. ‘11

Alumni Achievement Awards 2011

The Saint John’s Alumni Achievement Award is given to outstanding alumni in each of the nine older reunion classes during Homecoming weekend each fall. Profiles of the 2011 Alumni Achievement Award recipients are included on the following pages.

Nominations for the Alumni Achievement Award may be made through the alumni office, 800-635-7303, or online at sjualum.com/notable alumni & awards.

'61 Alumni Achievement Award

Michael E. Murphy

Mike Murphy credits hearing the monks talk about foreign educational and travel experiences with inspiring him to pursue international law. He went on to earn a law degree after teaching English at St. Olaf and Macalester Colleges. Eventually he was invited by Minneapolis firm Faegre & Benson to start up an international law practice for its corporate clients. He retired from Faegre & Benson in 2004 but continues to teach a Law in Literature class at the University of St. Thomas’ Law School. He also tutors immigrant students in the St. Paul public schools. While building his career and raising a family with his wife, Jane, Murphy has stayed involved at Saint John’s. A former president of the Alumni Association, he quips: “I’ve been involved in so many class reunion committees over the years, this one seems like it must be our fiftieth!”

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>Beth &amp; David Schulte</td>
<td>'92, boy, Jacob, Dec. '10</td>
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<td>'94</td>
<td>Abby &amp; Mike Cunningham</td>
<td>'94, boy, Liam, Dec. '10</td>
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<td>Nicole &amp; Joe Hoelz</td>
<td>'94, girl, Katherine, July '10</td>
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<td>Marcy &amp; David Camarotto</td>
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<td>Lisa &amp; Alan Christenson</td>
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<td>Laura (Torborg) &amp; Gregory Peichel</td>
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**'61 Alumni Achievement Award**

**George Nemanich**

George Nemanich’s surgical career has taken him all over the world. After completing his residency at the University of Minnesota, Nemanich served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in command of a surgical hospital in Vietnam. Upon returning, he joined a surgical group in Minneapolis where he provided compassionate care for more than 30 years. Nemanich and his wife, Ann, have four children—three Johnnies and a Bennie—and have taken medical missionary trips in recent years to Honduras, Guatemala and St. Lucia. Nemanich now serves as medical director of a wound care institute in Edina, Minn.
'00 Jessica (Lessard '01) & John Maslow '00, girl, Lucy, Oct. '10
'00 Deb (Chelberg '02) & Mark McCarthy '00, girl, Ava, Nov. '10
'00 Stacy (Kaye '01) & Nigel Nagassar '00, girl, Kayleigh, Dec. '10
'00 Carolyn & Jaime Ramirez '00, girl, Jasmin, Nov. '10
'00 Maria & Jeremy Richart '00, girl, Natalya, Sept. '9
'00 Maria & Jeremy Richart '00, boy, Zoa, Oct. '10
'00 Anne Panian '00 & Gabe Sinna '00, boy, Jacob, Jan. '11
'00 Sarah (Mitchell-Smith '02) & Drew Smith '00, boy, Lachlan, Dec. '10
'01 Nicole & Mike Breen '01, boy, Hans, Nov. '10
'01 Melissa (Hemmelgarn '01) & Mike Fox '01, girl, Tenley, Feb. '11
'01 Ellen & Eric Goodman '01, girl, Faith, Feb. '11
'01 Reyna (Manley '01) & David Hartley '01, girl, Fiona, Jan. '11
'01 Megann & Gus Kellom '01, twins, Emmerson & Kohen July '10
'01 Becky & Marc Kettleson '01, twins, Margaret & Creighton, Feb. '11
'01 Lisa & Andrew Loso '01, girl, Kathryn, Nov. '10
'01 Erin & Patrick Murray '01, girl, Keelin, Dec. '10
'01 Rebecca (Penford '01) & Michael Murray '01, twins, Peter & Margaret, Mar. '11
'01 Jamie (Laurich '02) & Andy Omann '01, girl, Zora, Nov. '10
'01 Alicia (Baumgarn '01) & Travis Radel '01, boy, Gavin, Apr. '10
'01 Amber & Don Scheibel '01, girl, Jocelyn, Apr. '11
'01 Leah (Meyer '01) & Jeff Swenson '01, girl, Abigail, Apr. '11
'01 Justine (Rubendall '01) & Brian Zirbes '01, twin girls, Hazel & Ruby, Dec. '10
'02 Eden (Contardo '02) & Seth Boyer '02, boy, Jonah, Feb. '11
'02 Lyndsay (Mettling '05) & Chad Hemminger '02, boy, Nolan, Apr. '11

'02 Jill (Carr '06) & Mark Koch '02, girl, Anne, Apr. '11
'02 Carey & Nicholas Reetz '02, twin girls, Emma & Grace, Jan. '11
'02 Kara (Schultz '02) & Tim Rysavy '02, boy, Simon, Mar. '11
'03 Vanja (Sinanovic '05) & Michael Absmaier '03, boy, Phil, Dec. '10
'03 Jana (Viramontes '02) & Alan Gaffaney '03, boy, Jack, Sept. '10
'03 Michelle (Barlau '03) & Ben Goodman '03, girl, Tessa, Jan. '10
'03 Shantelle & Marty Kane '03, girl, Natalie, Nov. '10
'03 Dina & Adam Maertens '03, girl, Maggie, Feb. '11
'03 Emily (Mages '02) & Brennen Rath '03, boy, Grady, Aug. '10
'03 Caroline & Joe Smith '03, boy, Benjamin, Sept. '10
'03 Amanda & Matthew Bruns '04, girl, Brooke, July '10
'04 Jenn & Tim Cheesebrow '04, boy, Finn, Aug. '10
'04 Anna (Zauhar '05) & Cole Deibele '04, boy, Jackson, Mar. '11
'04 Lori & Barry Folkens '04, boy, Lincoln, Mar. '11
'04 Maria & Jeff Gerhardt '04, girl, Emilia, Nov. '10
'04 Sara (Lieser '06) & Jeremy Goltz '04, boy, Boden, Mar. '11
'04 Julie & John Hoffer '04, girl, Margaret, Sept. '10
'04 Becca & Eric Oelrich '04, girl, Charlotte, Dec. '10
'04 Erin (Motz '04) & Michael Ryan '04, girl, Macey, Nov. '10
'04 Allison (Hansen '03) & Chad Schiplin '04, twin boys, Garrison & Grady, Jan. '11
'05 Jessica (Rasmusson '06) & Jon Bruns '05, girl, Isla, Nov. '10
'05 Reanna & Paul Ferber '05, girl, Nora, Dec. '10
'05 Susan & Nathan Haasken '05, girl, Julia, July '10
'05 Jamie & Brian Mathiassen '05, twin girls, Jaelyn & Berkley, Apr. '11
'06 Laura Dansby & Jared Anderson '06, girl, Victoria, July '10
'06 Meghan & Matt Czech '06, boy, Hunter, Apr. '10
'06 Tina & George Fortier '06, girl, Emelia, Mar. '11
'06 Heather (Johnson '07) & Michael Kruk '06, boy, Gavin, Mar. '11
'06 Laura (Doboszenski '08) & Tim Lahti '06, girl, Rose, Oct. '10

'MILESTONES

Bob Weber

'61 Alumni Achievement Award

After graduating from SJU, Weber served on active duty with the U.S. Army in Germany. He married his wife, Carol, and they raised two children while Weber also completed 20 years with the Army reserves. He then went on to a successful career at Farmers Home Mutual Insurance Company, retiring in 1998 as executive vice president. He continued as a director of the company until 2005. While the latest chapter in his story involves spending winters in Arizona and taking time for bridge, golf and grandchildren, one consistent theme runs throughout Weber's story: his passion for Saint John's. For years he has been a tireless volunteer for many class activities and events. One classmate deems him "the far too modest class agent."
Pat Maxwell has been an entrepreneur and executive in both the business and non-profit sectors. While serving as CEO, CFO, general counsel and on the board of directors of several corporations over the years, he has been a generous volunteer. Maxwell has served on the SJU Board of Regents, was president of the SJU Alumni Association and is currently on the Board of Overseers of Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary. He is famous for his Benedictine hospitality. "Pat has invited classmates to informal reunions at his cabin near Saint John's as part of the annual Homecoming tradition," says a classmate. "I always leave these informal reunions with a sense of gratitude for the positive influence SJU has had on my life. Pat is the embodiment of the Johnnie spirit that makes us all feel like members of the extended Saint John's family."

Tony Biebl retired in 2002 as senior vice-president after a successful 21-year career with Clorox. Biebl has been generous to SJU with his time, talent and treasure. He has recruited countless new donors and volunteers through his work with the National Consultation Team and as the Fellows Class Chair. Biebl leads conference calls, plans reunion get-togethers and call nights. He is always willing to share his ideas and experience with others. As one classmate states, "Tony exemplifies what it means to be a Johnnie. He cares about others, has had outstanding success in his career and is a down-to-earth, friendly guy."
Chris Coborn

Chris Coborn is the president and CEO of Coborn’s, Inc., which owns grocery, liquor and video stores, and pharmacies throughout the upper Midwest. Coborn promotes a culture of leadership through community involvement both in his business and personal life. In June, he was recognized with the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2011 Midwest Award in the retail category. He has encouraged civic involvement among his employees and led several initiatives to address social need, including the Coborn Family Scholarship Fund at CSB/SJU. Few organizations in Central Minnesota have not benefitted in some way from Coborn’s leadership and generosity. Coborn served on the SJU Board of Regents, and he and his wife, Becky CSB ’81, are proud parents of a CSB alumna and two SJU students.

Dan McGlynn

Dan McGlynn fully embodies the Benedictine value of community that encompasses Saint John’s. He successfully collaborated with his family in their business, McGlynn Bakeries. He worked with many organizations that supported the bakery industry, family business and the underserved in Minneapolis and St. Paul. And he has been a leader in many aspects of SJU, serving on the Board of Regents, volunteering for his class committee and capital campaigns, and encouraging the coordinate relationship with CSB. McGlynn’s willingness to share his experience coping with the bone marrow disorder myelodyplasia has provided education and inspiration to many.
In Memoriam
John Edward Simonett ’48, 1924-2011

John Edward Simonett ’48 was an attorney and associate justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, famous for his wit and thoughtfulness. In 2007, he was named one of the 100 most influential attorneys in Minnesota history.

Simonett’s studies at Saint John’s were interrupted by World War II. After discharge, he returned to Saint John’s, graduating magna cum laude. He went on to the University of Minnesota Law School, where he was president of the Minnesota Law Review.

Simonett began his legal career in private practice in Little Falls, becoming a well-respected trial attorney. He also made a name for himself as a colorful commentator on the law and culture of the area as well as on more complex topics.

In 1980, Governor Al Quie appointed Simonett to the Minnesota Supreme Court. In more than thirteen years on the bench, Justice Simonett wrote 423 opinions, 355 of them on behalf of a majority of the justices.

Considered a moderate, he wrote decisions upholding the state’s fetal homicide law, overturning lower welfare benefits for new state residents and, in one controversial case, allowing a lawyer to eliminate a potential juror based on religion. Simonett and his wife, Doris (Bogut CSB ’51), had five children. Two of their daughters also became judges.

Joe Vaughan

Joe Vaughan is credited by a classmate as being “the consistent thread that keeps the class of 1986 connected.” Vaughan has been a successful development officer for several years but always finds time to volunteer in his church and community and spend time with his wife and two children. “Joe exemplifies all that is good about SJU, which taught us to take care of those around us in order to make the broader world a better place,” says a classmate.

Robb Neuenschwander

In 2000, Robb Neuenschwander, an avid University of Minnesota Gopher basketball fan, was sitting in his season ticket seats frustrated that so many seats were empty for a sport he loves. He combined two of his passions—basketball and children in need—and founded a non-profit called Tix for Tots. Neuenschwander, a mentor for Big Brothers and Big Sisters, founded the organization with the idea that ticket holders could donate their tickets to children and mentors so they could attend a sporting event they otherwise could not afford. Tix for Tots now includes art and cultural events and has 350 non-profit partners. Neuenschwander serves as president, and in 2011, celebrated the 325,000th ticket given to a Twin Cities child in need.
INSPIRING LIVES

A Word from the Wise
Saint John’s University’s first baby boomers are now turning 65. These Johnnies from the Class of 1968, born in 1946, offer some words of advice for the rest of us…

Always be trying to think outside the box, and always be open to trying new experiences.
—Dennis Korman

Life is short, stick to your high Benedictine ideals in life, and do not be overwhelmed with the almighty dollar.
—Roger Young

Always strive for a balance in your life: work hard in your chosen profession but enjoy life.
—Mike Perry

Only 25 percent or so of employees are passionate about their job. Make sure you are one of the 25 percent.
—Mike Sipe

You can only work as hard as you play!
—Bill Smoley

Whatever career you undertake, there is an inherent obligation to give back to your community.
—John Holbrook

No matter what life’s tribulations and tempests steer your way, it’s a great life, a great country, and a great faith.
—Sergio Lugo

The Benedictine Rule that I took so much for granted as being for someone else turned out to be a real guiding light for my "adult" years. Don’t ever forget how lucky you are to be one of us—a Johnnie.
—Tom Yencho

Remember that your faith is very important to all of you. And don’t retire until you are ready to.
—Bill Walter
While some of us dream of traveling and relaxing when we retire, Jim and Lori Rausch wanted to spend much of their retirement doing something different.

Being active in their parish near Atlanta, Ga. opened their eyes to the needs in their local community and the world. Since Jim’s retirement, both Jim and Lori have volunteered regularly, Jim at the local Habitat for Humanity and Lori at several other ministries. Both Jim and Lori have traveled on service trips to other cities and several countries to build homes.

Through a cash gift from their IRA and a beneficiary designation in their will, Jim and Lori established an endowment to support students on social justice mission trips.

“Exposing SJU students to social justice early in their careers will give them a head start in life—to see the needs of others and experience the joy of giving,” says Jim.

“Experiencing poverty first hand will help them understand how much they have and how little others have,” Lori adds.

It’s your will.
To learn more about making a bequest to Saint John’s, contact Jim Dwyer ’75, director of planned giving at (800) 635-7303 or jdwyer@csbsju.edu
“High above the Sagatagan, tow’ring o’er the oak and pine, Proudly stands our Alma Mater, ever let her beacon shine.”

Saint John’s University welcomes 500 freshmen to the Class of 2015!