

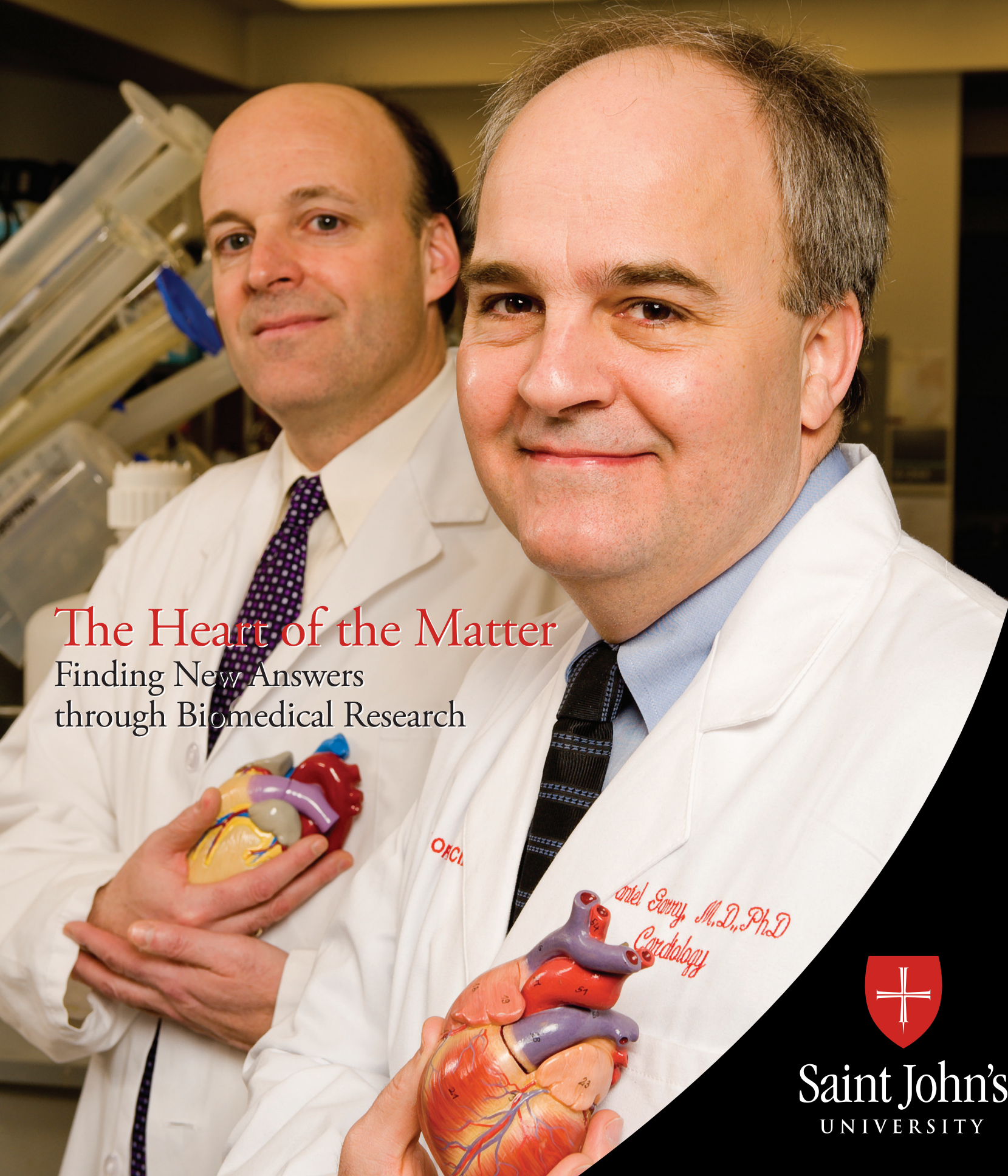
# Saint John's

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2009

## The Heart of the Matter

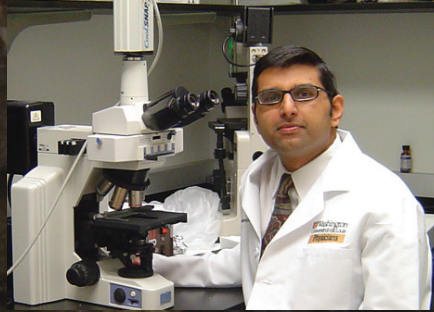
Finding New Answers  
through Biomedical Research



Saint John's  
UNIVERSITY



## FEATURES



### 8 From Lab Rats to Leading Researchers

Former denizens of SJU science labs are looking for, and finding, better ways to treat major diseases through biomedical research.



### 20 Schnobrich '01 Wins Bronze

Eleven years after he pulled his first oar on the Sag at SJU, Matt Schnobrich rows to a Bronze in Beijing.



### 22 Adviser to Obama

Denis McDonough '92 named deputy assistant to President Obama for strategic communications for the National Security Council.

## DEPARTMENTS

- 2 From the President
- 4 Behind the Pines
- 18 Cloister Walk
- 24 Service to the Church
- 28 Advancing the Mission
- 30 Johnnie Sports
- 32 Alumni Connection
- 38 Milestones
- 44 Inspiring Lives

Led by the monks of Saint John's chanting psalms, mourners process from the Abbey Church to the cemetery after the Mass of Christian Burial for Br. Dietrich Reinhart, OSB. (Photo by Cass Mackert)



# Saint John's

The Magazine of  
Saint John's University

WINTER 2009

EDITOR  
Jean Scoon

EDITORIAL TEAM  
Rob Culligan '82  
Glenda Isaacs Burgeson  
Troy Fritz '88  
Greg Hoyer  
Jon McGee '84  
John Young '83

CONTRIBUTORS  
Rose Beauclair  
John Biasi  
Rob Culligan '82  
Al Eisele '58  
Michael Halverson '01  
Michael Hemmesch '97  
Mary Heer-Forsberg  
Troy Fritz '88  
Ryan Klinkner '04  
Franklin Knoll '62  
Jean Scoon  
Josie Stang  
John Taylor '58  
Thom Woodward '70  
John Young '83  
Joe Young '73

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
Julie Scegur

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION  
Greg Becker, Karen Hoffbeck

EDITOR EMERITUS  
Lee A. Hanley '58

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST  
Peggy Roske

# Saint John's

is published in the fall  
and winter and  
*CSB/SJU Magazine*  
is published with the  
College of Saint Benedict  
in the spring.

ADDRESS CHANGES  
Saint John's University  
P.O. Box 7222  
Collegeville, MN 56321  
rathmann@csbsju.edu

CONTACT  
320-363-2591  
800-635-7303  
www.csbsju.edu

LETTERS  
Saint John's Magazine  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
P.O. Box 7222  
Collegeville, MN 56321

E-MAIL  
jscoon@csbsju.edu

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

As interim president, it is an honor to greet you from these pages and welcome you to the current issue of the *Saint John's Magazine*.

Our community has been through a very difficult time in recent months. We first coped with the news of Br. Dietrich Reinhart's illness in late September, then accepted his resignation as president in October. Ultimately, we mourned his passing in December after his valiant effort to beat metastatic melanoma.

On the facing page, you'll find excerpts from Abbot John Klassen's homily as well as my eulogy to Br. Dietrich, delivered at his Mass of Christian Burial in January. If you were unable to attend this moving event, there is a video of it on the alumni Web site ([sjualum.com/videos](http://sjualum.com/videos)). In addition, we'll be celebrating his life at Saint John's Day on April 17, here in Collegeville. All are welcome. You'll be hearing more about this, but in the meantime, mark your calendars.

Br. Dietrich left us a thriving institution. Nowhere is this more evident than in the vibrant life of this university and its graduates. From laboratories in major research institutions to the Olympics to the White House, Johnnies continue to make their mark on the world and for the world.

Our cover feature brings you the story of seven prominent alumni in the biomedical sciences at work in laboratories, medical schools, hospitals and businesses. Their work with heart disease, cancer, diabetes, obesity and AIDS holds out great hope for humanity.

Thom Woodward '70 visited with Matt Schnobrich '01, our first Johnnie Olympic Medalist, last October for the inside story on Schnobrich's journey to the Bronze. To complement Schnobrich's inspiring story, we also profile four Johnnies who have achieved significant amateur athletic goals of other kinds, from shotputting to mountain-climbing.

You may not have picked him out amongst the throngs at President Obama's inauguration, but Denis McDonough '92, a senior foreign policy adviser to the Obama campaign, was there. Al Eisele '58 talked to McDonough just before the festivities began and writes about his new appointment with the National Security Council and, of course, his Johnnie football record.

We also introduce a new section called "Service to the Church," in which we profile graduates of the Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary. Kristi Bivens, a 2008 alumna, shares her experiences as a pastoral associate in a clustered parish and her insights into the challenges and joys of this new structure.

Br. Dietrich was fond of saying, "The best is yet to come." I couldn't agree more.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Whalen '70  
Interim President



## In Memoriam

### Br. Dietrich Reinhart, OSB May 17, 1949 – December 29, 2008



*The Mass of Christian Burial for Br. Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, president emeritus, was celebrated at Saint John's Abbey Church on January 6, 2009. Abbot John Klassen presided and Dan Whalen, interim president, delivered the eulogy. In memory of Br. Dietrich's passing, we include excerpts from the Abbot's homily and Dan Whalen's eulogy below. Readers will find full scripts of the homily and eulogy, as well as a video of the Mass, at [sjualum.com/videos](http://sjualum.com/videos).*

#### Abbot John Klassen, OSB:

"During these past three months, Dietrich struggled to live in the tension of accepting the tough prognosis of Stage IV melanoma – and his deep desire to use his remaining time to jumpstart the Benedictine Institute. He had a fierce desire to live, to beat the odds. Sometimes he struggled with his temper, looking for patience. As president Dietrich was used to having control over many things but wily, creative melanoma does not yield to typical control strategies. It was difficult for him to believe that his time might be short, not because he lacked courage or the passion to live, but because the disease is so tough. Ultimately, Dietrich was able to step into that new future with God that our faith promises."

#### Daniel Whalen '70:

"Dietrich had a remarkable capacity to see a future, to capture a dream, to get the big picture. And, simultaneously, he could grasp all the intricate details that needed doing to make the dream come true. It was as if he was aided by a magical eyepiece or optical instrument, able to see far off into remote galaxies like a telescope, while also able to see sub-atomic particles like an electron microscope.

"Br. Dietrich felt that he was 100 percent responsible 100 percent of the time. If he dreamed a thing or was asked to take on an assignment, he believed that he was required to see it through no matter what. There was no stopping him from relentlessly moving forward. He did so with patience and grace, grounded in confidence and aided by willing collaborators that he carefully recruited. I was one of those collaborators. I daresay that many, if not most of us gathered here today were his joyful and willing collaborators. Or perhaps I should say unindicted co-conspirators.

"Br. Dietrich was passionate about Saint John's – every bit of Saint John's: the Abbey and his confreres of nearly 40 years, the Prep School, Liturgical Press, Collegeville Institute, Boys Choir, Arboretum, and more."



# BEHIND THE PINES

## Whalen '70 Named Interim President of Saint John's

SJU Board of Regents Chair Jim Frey '78 announced the appointment Oct. 21 of alumnus Daniel Whalen as interim president.

"I am confident that Dan will diligently tend to the mission of Saint John's with particular focus on the priorities the Board of Regents has outlined for his term," said Frey. "I am certain that Dan's leadership will inspire the trust and confidence of everyone in the Saint John's community."

Whalen replaced the late Br. Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, president emeritus, who announced his resignation on Oct. 16.

"Dan is a remarkably kind and generous man," said Reinhart. "His willingness to serve as interim president of Saint John's University reflects a deep love and gratitude for the educational community that has nurtured his heart and fired his desire to make a difference in the world. The leadership of Saint John's could not be in better hands!"

## From Minnesota to D.C.

Whalen grew up in Argyle, MN and East Grand Forks, MN, where, after attending Saint John's Preparatory School for one year, he graduated from Sacred Heart High School. In the mid-1960s, Whalen, his mother and his siblings moved to St. Cloud, MN. Whalen majored in government at SJU.

Following graduation, he worked on a factory assembly line, attended the University of Minnesota's School of Public Affairs, served as a policy analyst at the federal government's Administration on Aging, managed George McGovern's presidential campaign in Minnesota's sixth congressional district, was a policy analyst with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, worked as a management consultant in Washington, D.C., was director of health planning for New York state and served as a health policy specialist for Governor Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia.

## From Stanford to Business Success

After Whalen earned MBA and MA degrees from Stanford University in 1980, he worked at AT&T as a business marketing manager and as the first director of cellular telephone operations in New York state and New England, served as vice president of operations of Cellular One in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore and was executive vice president and member of the board of directors of Tetra Tech, a publicly traded engineering company. Whalen founded or co-founded five telecommunication industry companies including Whalen & Company, an international cellular telephone development company that he headed for 10 years. Whalen is presently principal investor and executive chairman of Vello, Inc., a start-up teleconferencing company.

## A Record of Philanthropy

In addition to Whalen's academic and professional achievements, he is a philanthropist who truly embodies the spirit of giving. Whalen has extended his generosity to Saint John's University and Abbey; the College of Saint Benedict; Saint Benedict's Monastery; Laketrails, a summer camp in northern Minnesota;

The Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota; Anna Marie's, a shelter for battered women in Saint Cloud, MN, named for his mother; a number of projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Saint-Martin-in-the-Fields in London; Boys and Girls Clubs of Oakland, CA; Girls Inc. of northern California, the Diocese of Oakland, CA; Redwood Day School in Oakland, CA.; Lick-Wilmerding High School in San Francisco; Tulane University; Center for Early Intervention on Deafness in Berkeley, CA; the University of California at Berkeley; the Positive Coaching Alliance; and Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

## The Whalens and Saint John's

Whalen's financial generosity is matched only by his willingness to share his time and talents. Whalen has been a member of the Saint John's Board of Regents since 1997, serving as its chair from 2004-07, and was campaign chair for the recently completed capital campaign *One Generation to the Next*, which secured \$168 million against a goal of \$150 million and has been the largest and most successful capital campaign in the University's history to date.

Whalen also serves on the advisory board of the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and as trustee of Holy Names University in Oakland, CA, Redwood Day School in Oakland, CA, Lick-Wilmerding High School in San Francisco and Laketrails Base Camp at Oak Island, MN.

Whalen lives in Oakland, CA with his wife, Katharine, and their three children, Matthew, Anna and Michael.

The Board of Regents has initiated a search for the 12th president of Saint John's University.



Dan Whalen '70, at the announcement of his interim presidency

Photo by Michael Becker

## Academic Profile and Diversity Increase

SJU welcomed 461 new Johnnies into the fold last August. With 519 new entering students at CSB, the class of 2012 numbers 980.

The academic profile of the new class improved from last year's entering class and is more racially and ethnically diverse. In total, American students of color and international students make up nearly 12 percent of the new entering class this fall, the highest number and percentage in the colleges' history.

SJU and CSB together enrolled 3,965 students, which marked the third straight year total combined undergraduate enrollment has exceeded 3,900 students.

It is the second largest combined enrollment at CSB and SJU, only behind the 2007 total of 3,966 students.

SJU has an enrollment of 1,897. CSB's enrollment is 2,068, its highest enrollment.

Overall retention of continuing students remained very high. Retention of students from the first year to the second year totaled 90 percent, a retention rate that ranks among the highest in the country.

## School of Theology Numbers Rise

Saint John's School of Theology•Seminary saw its number of enrolled students rise to 147 this fall, which continues an upward trend for the school. This is the most students enrolled in the School of Theology•Seminary since 2005 and is up from the 139 students enrolled in the fall of 2007.

Of these 147 students, 57 are full time, 75 are new to the school, and 42 are living on campus, the largest number in six years. They include 18 international students, the most enrolled in a fall semester in the last 12 years, representing 10 different countries. Benedictine men and women are also strongly represented, with 13 women and 12 men coming from 16 different communities.

## Gagliardi Honored with Stagg Award

Legendary SJU football coach John Gagliardi received the Amos Alonzo Stagg Award – the highest award given by football coaches to a fellow coach – on Jan. 13 at the 2009 convention of the American Football Coaches' Association. Previous recipients include Paul "Bear" Bryant (1983), Woody Hayes (1986) and Joe Paterno (2002). The late Bill Walsh received the award posthumously last year.

"The Amos Alonzo Stagg Selection Committee, and our board of trustees, felt that no one deserved his honor more than you," wrote Grant Teaff, AFCA executive director, in a letter to Gagliardi last May. "...You are one of the great humanitarian leaders in our nation, and you have done our game and our profession proud. John,

your enthusiasm, integrity and zeal for the game is deeply appreciated by the AFCA."

Gagliardi's 60 years of collegiate coaching is the most in college football history, surpassing the prior record of 57 years held by Stagg. Gagliardi broke Robinson's NCAA record for the most games coached (588) Sept. 20 against Concordia College-Moorhead in Collegeville.

The first active head coach to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame (Class of 2006) and the 2007 *Liberty Mutual* Division III Coach of the Year, Gagliardi has a 461-125-11 (.782) collegiate career record and a 437-119-10 (.781) record at SJU. Gagliardi tied the all-time collegiate win record of 408, held by the late Eddie Robinson, long-time Grambling coach, on Nov. 1, 2003, and broke the all-time record a week later on the way to a perfect 14-0 season and an NCAA Division III championship.

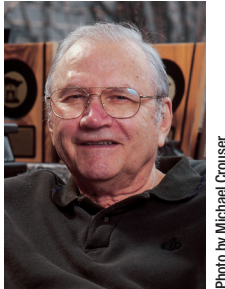


Photo by Michael Crouser

## Goodman '09 Finalist for Global Student Entrepreneur Award

Jon Goodman '09, founder of JGoods Custom Shoes, was a finalist for the 2008 Global Student Entrepreneur Awards. The awards program is the premier award for undergraduate students running companies and is considered a catalyst that inspires students

to start and grow entrepreneurial ventures. The annual competition this year attracted 1,000 collegians from more than 300 universities in 11 countries.

Goodman founded JGoods Custom Shoes in 2002 when he was a sophomore in high school. JGoods Custom Shoes is a Web-based company that began by providing hand-painted custom sneakers for clients worldwide. As interest in the company grew, Goodman developed a Shoe Customization Kit that makes it possible for individuals to customize their own shoes as long as the shoes are leather.

Goodman's work can be seen in stores from Minneapolis to Japan. Some of his famous clients include Jay-Z, Pharrell Williams, Joe Mauer, Paul Wall and Cam'Ron.



Jon Goodman '09, founder of JGoods Custom Shoes

Photo by Steve Wolt





(L to R) Dr. William Cahoy, dean of the School of Theology-Seminary; Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai, Dignitas Humana Award recipient; and Abbot John Klassen at the 2008 Dignitas Humana Award ceremony.

**Nobel Laureate Maathai Receives Dignitas Humana Award**

Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai received the 10th Dignitas Humana Award from Saint John’s School of Theology-Seminary on Sept. 30. Following the presentation of the award, Maathai gave a lecture, “Environment, Democracy, and Peace: A Critical Link.”

Maathai, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, is an environmentalist and advocate for human rights around the world.

The first African woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, Maathai was recognized for her holistic approach to sustainable development, which embraces democracy and human rights, particularly women’s rights.

The Dignitas Humana Award annually recognizes and encourages the efforts of individuals who do exceptional work on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised. It honors those who exemplify the Judeo-Christian values of service, respect, kindness and compassion in their work to advance the dignity of human persons.



Jay Weinstein, chef, author and environmentalist, during Heritage Day.

**Weinstein Featured at 2008 Heritage Day**

Author, environmentalist and chef Jay Weinstein was the featured speaker at the annual Heritage Day festivities at CSB/SJU in September.

This year’s theme for Heritage Day was “Stewardship and the Family Table.”

Weinstein, who most recently wrote *The Ethical Gourmet* (Broadway, 2006), spoke on “Serving up a Brighter Future: Sustainable Foods for the Family Table.”

A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America with a degree in journalism from New York University, Weinstein is a protégé of restaurateur and author Jasper White. He has written two cookbooks, and his articles have appeared in *The New York Times* and *Travel + Leisure* magazine.

**SJU Graduates Join Benedictine Volunteer Corps**

Ten SJU 2008 graduates have joined the Saint John’s Benedictine Volunteer Corps (SJBVC).

Saint John’s Abbey initiated the SJBVC in 2003. Its mission is to provide SJU students or alumni with nine to 12 months of volunteer service at a Benedictine monastery while participating in the monastic life of that community. The volunteer corps supports the life and apostolic work of the host monastery.

While one volunteer is serving at Saint John’s Abbey in Collegeville, the rest of the 2008 group are spread around the world, including at the Colegio Sant Anselmo in Rome, Italy; Saint Maur’s Abbey in Hanga, Tanzania, Africa; Abbey of the Dormition in Tabgha and Jerusalem, Israel; La Abadia de Jesu Cristo Crucificado in Esquipulas, Guatemala; and the Manquehue Community in Santiago, Chile.



Class of 2008 SJBVC volunteers in front of the Abbey Church. L to R, back row: Mike Bancks, Brady King, Phil Hanson, Cole Woodward, Ben Demarais. L to R, front row: Charlie McCarron, Joe Weichman, Mike Leither, Theo Eggermont, Charlie Sawyer.

## Fine Arts Programming Events

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
Sunday, April 5, 2:00 p.m.  
Petters Auditorium, CSB

**Hubbard Street Dance II**  
Saturday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Petters Auditorium, CSB

**Perla Batalla**  
Saturday, April 25, 8:00 p.m.  
Stephen B. Humphrey Theater, SJU

Visit [www.csbsju.edu/finearts](http://www.csbsju.edu/finearts) or call the box office at 320.363.3577 or 320.363.5777 for more information.



In 2006, a group of Saint John's alumni, led by Steve Nelson '84 and Dr. Dan Garry '80, came together to establish an endowment at Saint John's in honor of their beloved professor, Fr. Cyprian Weaver, OSB. Their ultimate goal is to endow a chair in biomedical science in Fr. Cyprian's honor. In this feature story, we profile seven alumni who are playing leading roles in the biomedical sciences today.

# Finders, Seekers: Discovering New Answers through Biomedical Science

by Mary Heer-Forsberg, CSB '83

The field of biomedical science has experienced explosive growth in recent years. Fueled by technology and a global scientific community that is more collaborative than competitive, it is comprised of scientists who are committed to working together to solve increasingly complex problems of disease and human health.

With a strong science tradition at SJU, it's not surprising that there are Johnnies at the forefront of research and innovation in a number of areas within the biomedical sciences. The past successes and current research Saint John's graduates are pursuing are likely to produce results that impact the global medical community well into the future.

Daniel Garry '80, Joe Metzger '80, Chris Longbella '81, Steve Fling '82, Matthew Ogle '94, Manu Chakravarthy '95 and Aaron Mohs '02 are just a few of the outstanding alumni working in the biomedical sciences – as practitioners in clinics and hospitals, teaching in medical schools, conducting laboratory research and clinical trials, and leading and innovating at biomedical businesses and biotech firms. They are working to develop treatments and cures for some of the world's biggest health challenges – heart and cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and obesity and AIDS.

They are all leaders in their fields with lengthy resumes highlighting patents for medicines and devices, published research

findings, and awards for teaching, mentoring and advancements in their fields. None of them, however, are resting on their laurels. All seven profiled here demonstrate a passion for inquiry, discovery and innovation, and a genuine dedication to advancing medical knowledge that improves the human condition and ultimately improves the lives of their patients.

In all, these graduates are just a sampling of the many SJU and CSB alumni pursuing an interest in and love for science that was fostered by their professors and honed in the laboratories and classrooms on campus. One graduate explained that when he was at Saint John's 25 years ago, most science majors either went to medical school, dental school or became science teachers. Today, however, career options for science majors are much broader. Many can bridge the gap between the laboratory and the clinic with positions that allow them to do research and patient care. The health professions now include programs for physical therapists and physician's assistants; biotech and bioengineering firms also offer a variety of positions in research and development for science graduates. And according to these graduates, a few emerging areas



within biomedical sciences include bio-informatics, bio-engineering and pharmacological genomics.

Biology is the most common major leading to a career in the biomedical sciences and is the third most popular major for current Saint John's students. Specific areas of study within the biomedical sciences include genetics, biochemistry, immunology, cell physiology, neuroscience and molecular biology. According to Mani Campos, CSB/SJU associate professor of biology, there is growing student interest in cellular and molecular biology, which follows trends of biology overall. The biology

department recently added a molecular immunologist and neurobiologist to the faculty.

"We value being able to offer a wide variety of courses in all areas," explains Campos. New developments in the field and research findings make it necessary for faculty to update syllabus and course selections every semester. A new requirement for biology majors is a course titled Bio-Seminar, which ensures that students achieve a level of mastery in reading and analyzing scientific journal articles – articles they may one day soon be writing.

Saint John's is committed to maintaining a high quality

## Chair in Biomedical Sciences



Fr. Cyprian Weaver and Steve Nelson '83

Steve Nelson '83 is among a group of alumni leading an initiative to establish a Saint John's Chair in Biomedical Sciences in honor of Fr. Cyprian Weaver, OSB.

According to Nelson, former "lab rats" and students of Fr. Cyprian who are helping establish the endowed chair include Dr. Daniel Garry '80, Dr. Chris Longbella '81, Dr. Bernie Long '80 and Pete Long '85.

Nelson has been a key promoter and fundraiser. The goal is to raise \$2 million, and they are about a third of the way there. Although Nelson's career is in finance, he was a natural

science major and has maintained a love for science, fostered in part by Fr. Cyprian, who was his freshman-year faculty resident.

"Fr. Cyprian is a man of faith and a man of science," Nelson explains. "He is living proof that faith and science are complementary. That message resonates with all those he touches. We 'lab rats' see him as Fr. Cyprian but also as Dr. Cyprian, who has two Ph.D. degrees. He has had a tremendous impact on so many of us, and at the request of the Archbishop, Cyprian even helped establish a medical school in Taiwan.

"The university had a powerful example in Br. Dietrich [and his battle with cancer] of the need for biomedical advances," adds Nelson. "Br. Dietrich embraced the project of establishing the biomedical chair. It will ensure that bright young men and women at Saint John's and Saint Ben's are able to pursue careers in science and medicine."





program, requiring top-notch facilities, well-equipped laboratories and good instrumentation, such as the new automated DNA sequencer. It's important for today's science majors to gain experience conducting research and using the latest instrumentation. Many of them hone these skills pursuing individual research projects with their professors.

According to Campos, "Student research at Saint John's is meaningful and is intended as a tool to teach students the process of science, how to think, how to work in

the lab, how to use different equipment. It's also a unique form of learning through which students get regular one-on-one interaction with their professor," he adds. In addition to school year projects under the guidance of professors, students can apply for a 10-week summer research fellowships funded by grant monies.

"This is really an exciting time in biomedical sciences," explains Campos. "We're not just finding ways to treat diseases, but we're researching the causes in order to alleviate the disease. What's excit-

ing and amazing to our students is that they can really contribute to the study and treatment of these diseases."

Read on and learn how Saint John's alumni are helping make huge strides to combat some of the leading threats to human health and well-being. These men are tenacious problem-solvers with longterm visions of what they hope to accomplish. And despite the scientific terminology they use to describe their work, each expresses a core desire to help and heal people as his ultimate goal.

## Tackling the "Epidemics" of Diabetes and Obesity

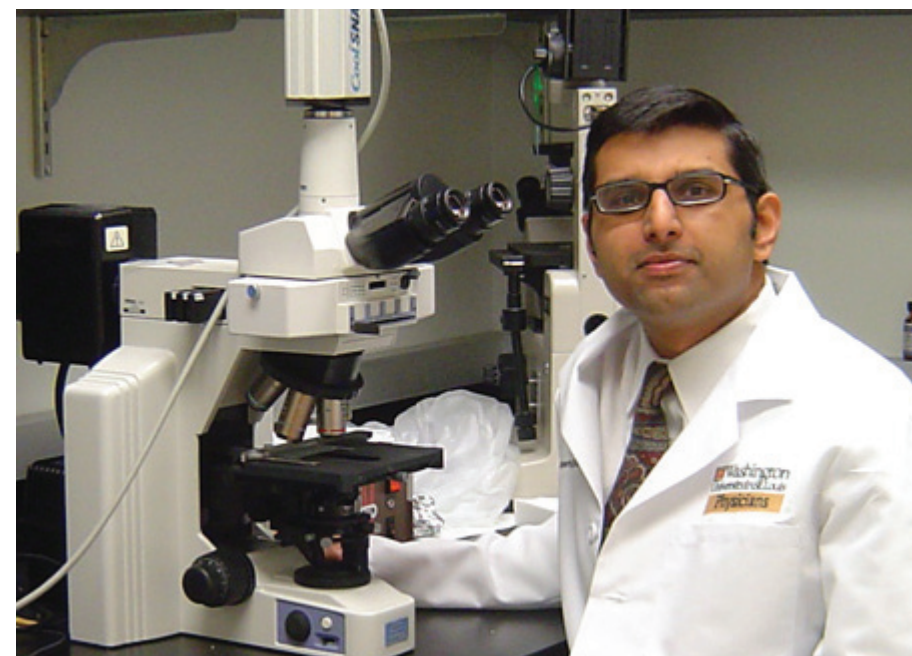
Having grown up in India, enrolling at Saint John's as an undergraduate was unusual, but Manu Chakravarthy '95, M.D., Ph.D. says "it was one of the best decisions I ever made. At Saint John's I got a very good liberal arts education, and my professors were very instrumental in shaping the course of my career.

"Those initial seeds that developed my passion for research were planted at Saint John's," says Chakravarthy. "I had great experiences working with Fr. Cyprian Weaver in the lab." He also completed summer research projects with professors Charles Rodell and Henry Jakubowski. Chakravarthy says that one of the keys to his success has been having good mentors along the way, starting at SJU. "Four years there were critical and formative years for me in every way," he adds.

Today, Chakravarthy is the Associate Director of Clinical Research in the Division of Experimental Medicine with Merck Research Laboratories in New Jersey. His work bridges the "bench" to the "bedside" by translating basic research into the clinic, focusing specifically on developing novel treatments for diabetes and obesity.

Chakravarthy recently joined the staff of Merck Research Labs. Prior to this he was an Instructor of Medicine in the Washington University Department of Medicine's Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Lipid Research after completing his fellowship there. He earned his combined M.D./Ph.D. at the University of Texas Medical School and the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

He enjoyed the academic environment at Washington University, which facilitated innovation and discovery, and is excited about the potential of his new position with Merck. "I am deeply passionate about utilizing my expertise in the basic sciences of metabolism to help develop the next generation of highly effective therapies to combat diabetes and obesity to significantly decrease the burden of these epidemics,"



Manu Chakravarthy '95, M.D., Ph.D., studies diabetes. He notes that the Web has had a huge impact on scientific research, making it easier to collaborate.

he explains.

Thanks to technology, Chakravarthy notes, biomedical science has been able to make much larger strides in diagnosing, and treating diseases like diabetes. "The Worldwide Web has made a huge impact on science and how we access information. The world is a smaller place, one in which it's easier to collaborate.

"Overall it's a privilege to be able to work on this and make a difference for people. The nature of the profession is that you're constantly learning and your successes directly and positively enrich the people around you," he says.







**Matt Ogle '94, M.S., scientist and medical device entrepreneur**

### Entrepreneurial Spirit Fueled by Scientific Problem Solving

1994 graduate Matt Ogle's successful career as an innovator, problem solver and entrepreneur with a passion for scientific discovery was inspired in part because of an important relationship he had with a pioneer in biomedical sciences early on in his career.

"During the first three years of my career I was able to work with industry 'legend' Dr. Walt Lillehei at St. Jude Medi-

cal. I was able to sit in his office, get his advice – it was just an amazing opportunity early in my career." Lillehei is considered the premier innovator in the world of heart research, and was St. Jude's founding medical director.

At the time, Ogle was a research scientist in the heart tissue valve unit at St. Jude Medical. He worked in the Cardiac Surgery Division for seven years, helped launch five products, filed over 25 patents, and earned the Hendrickson Technical Achievement award for "inventorship and development." During that time, Ogle also completed his master of science from the University of Minnesota in chemical engineering and materials science.

Today, Ogle is president and CEO of Lumen Biomedical in Plymouth, MN, a biotech firm he co-founded in 2003 after leaving St. Jude. Lumen Biomedical makes devices for endovascular procedures. The company now has three FDA approved products for treating vascular disease, heart problems and stroke—"three of best devices in the market" says Ogle.

Ogle invented the FiberNet Embolic Protection System which allows continuous blood flow while capturing particles during endovascular procedures by safely removing debris that had been dislodged during these procedures, potentially preventing damage to the brain and

other organs. In 2006 Lumen Biomedical won an award from the Minnesota High Tech Association for an emerging medical device company. Ogle is pleased that his company recently completed a large pivotal clinical trial with very successful results for patients, showing the lowest stroke rates yet.

In recent years, Ogle also founded other biotech firms such as MedCity Medical Innovations, and he will likely continue to do so. Recognizing his entrepreneurial ventures, the University of Wisconsin recently appointed him Entrepreneur in Residence at Madison's School of Biomedical Engineering.

Ogle can trace his well-honed research skills and intuition back to the start he got in the laboratories at Saint John's. As an undergraduate he took advantage of opportunities to do research on campus and secured a summer research fellowship at Oak Ridge National Laboratories in Tennessee.

"I spent a lot of time in the lab at Saint John's and did quite a bit of research with Professor Brian Johnson in inorganic chemistry. I was able to present my results at state and regional conferences, which had a phenomenal impact on me," he says. "It was a very professional environment in which to develop my skills and build relationships to start my career."

### Making Strides in the Lab to Fight Cancer and Now AIDS

For years, 1982 graduate Steve Fling, Ph.D., intended to become a professor and teach undergraduate science at a college like Saint John's. "I wanted to be a Dr. Rodell," he said, referring to Dr. Chuck Rodell, CSB/SJU professor of biology.

Instead, Fling has enjoyed a 20-year career in the medical research sector (both profit and nonprofit), devising vaccines, treatments, and therapies for a variety of diseases. "I will forever be indebted to Chuck Rodell for the love of teaching and genetics that I 'inherited' from him," he said, leading to what's been an exciting and satisfying profession. Today Fling has what he says is his most exciting position yet, directing an international effort to develop a vaccine for the AIDS virus.

Fling is currently Project Director for the Neutralizing Antibody Consortium (NAC), an international consortium of scientists at 16 leading academic and research institutions – including Cornell, Harvard, Oxford and Scripps – that are working collaboratively to develop a vaccine for HIV. The consortium is a project of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI). Fling directs a team that coordinates the collaborative research of the NAC and serves as a liaison between IAVI management and the scientific investigators. In addition, he was recently named

Project Director of the newly established NAC Vaccine Center at The Scripps Research Institute in southern California, the world's largest private, nonprofit research organization.

"I'm excited about working for IAVI because of the passion of those involved and because AIDS is a critical global medical and social issue. It's also a very difficult and challenging scientific problem," Fling explains. "The lessons learned from this project will potentially apply to vaccines for other diseases. And on a personal level, this work exploits my intellectual interests as well as my background in immunology and genetics."

Fling's post-doc experience studying the genetics of immunology launched his career in research. Working with Dr. Don Pious at the University of Washington, he explains "I made a surprisingly novel discovery while studying the function of human immune response genes and identifying the unique function of the HLA-DM locus ... it opened an entirely new area of immunological research."

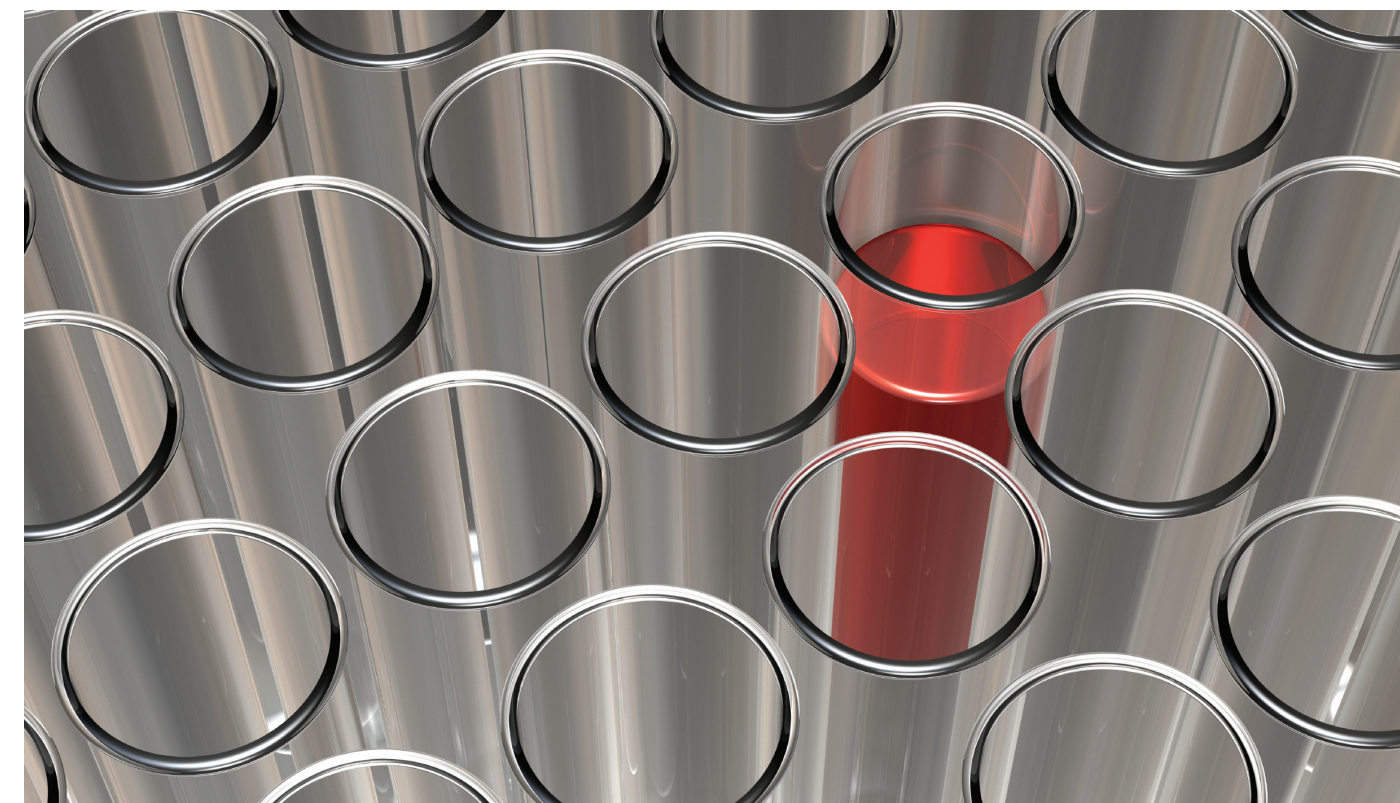
That discovery was published in the journal *Nature* in 1995 and propelled him into the research field. For ten years, he conducted vaccine research with the biotech firm Corixa in Seattle and later with GlaxoSmithKline. He helped develop vaccines and garnered several patents for cancer, cancer diagnosis and therapies,



**Steve Fling '82, Ph.D., heads up an international effort to develop a vaccine for the AIDS virus.**

and developed vaccines for several infectious diseases.

Fling is pleased that the opportunity with IAVI presented itself and that his experience has put him in the position to tackle the challenge. "I was interested in taking my professional experiences into the nonprofit sector and in particular into work that could benefit the third world, values I'm sure were also nurtured at Saint John's. I feel extremely fortunate to have come to a role that bridges all these interests," he says.







**Daniel Garry '80, M.D., Ph.D., is the first director of the Lillehei Heart Institute at the University of Minnesota.**

1980 Saint John's classmates Daniel Garry, M.D., Ph.D., and Joe Metzger, Ph.D., never expected to find themselves on the same team. But since last spring, the two are combining their expertise, national reputations and passions for biomedical discovery, and bringing more innovation and cutting edge investigations to an internationally recognized cardiovascular program at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Garry leads the University's Cardiovascular Division and currently holds the St. Jude Medical Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Disease. He is also the director of the University's Lillehei Heart Institute, established to honor Dr. C. Walton

Lillehei, a pioneer in cardiac surgery and the "father" of open heart surgery. Metzger joined the medical school faculty just recently as Chair of the Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology and the Maurice Visscher Endowed Chair in Physiology. Garry describes his colleague and former classmate as "an internationally recognized molecular physiologist who has distinguished himself in the study of heart disease and muscular dystrophy."

Prior to joining the University of Minnesota staff in 2007, Garry was the Director of Cardiac Regeneration and the Stem Cell Center and held the Gail Griffiths Hill Chair in Cardiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Garry's interest in research was fueled when, as an undergraduate, he worked with Father Cyprian Weaver in the lab. He earned his M.D./Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. "I chose to pursue a dual degree, because I wanted to be associated with discovery-based medicine. It was appealing and gratifying for me to be able to undertake patient care, research and teaching," he says.

Garry joined the University because of its "rich environment for innovation related to cardiovascular research" and its international reputation. "Heart disease remains the number one killer, yet our knowledge about it is very limited," he says. "My focus is on cell therapy and molecular genomics—determining which genes make people susceptible to heart disease. The new frontier in heart disease

## Garry and Metzger Team Up to Elevate a High Profile U of M Cardiovascular Program



Photo by Steve Wolt

research is children," he adds. "We're looking for ways to modify their risk factors, adding medication to prevent future problems."

As the Lillehei director, Garry hopes to continue to grow the Institute's investigative team, bringing in more researchers and collaborative partners like Metzger. Metzger joined the Minnesota staff after more than a decade at the University of Michigan Medical School as a professor and Associate Chair of Molecular and Integrative Physiology and Director of the Center for Integrative Genomics. Metzger earned his doctorate in Biology and Physiology at Marquette University. Both he and Garry have earned several professional honors and awards for their research and teaching and published numerous research findings.

Metzger's current research focuses on cardiovascular performance in health and disease that features genetic and chemical-based therapies spanning from molecule to whole animal. "We seek to use experimental gene therapies to prevent, halt and ultimately reverse heart disease in animals and humans," he explains. His most notable work was inventing the molecular "band-aid" for the failing heart (cited in a 2005 paper published in the journal *Nature*). "This work spans from molecular cardiology to the potential for direct clinical application in patients.... We hope to advance to clinical trials of our molecular band-aid treatment to protect the heart function in children with muscular



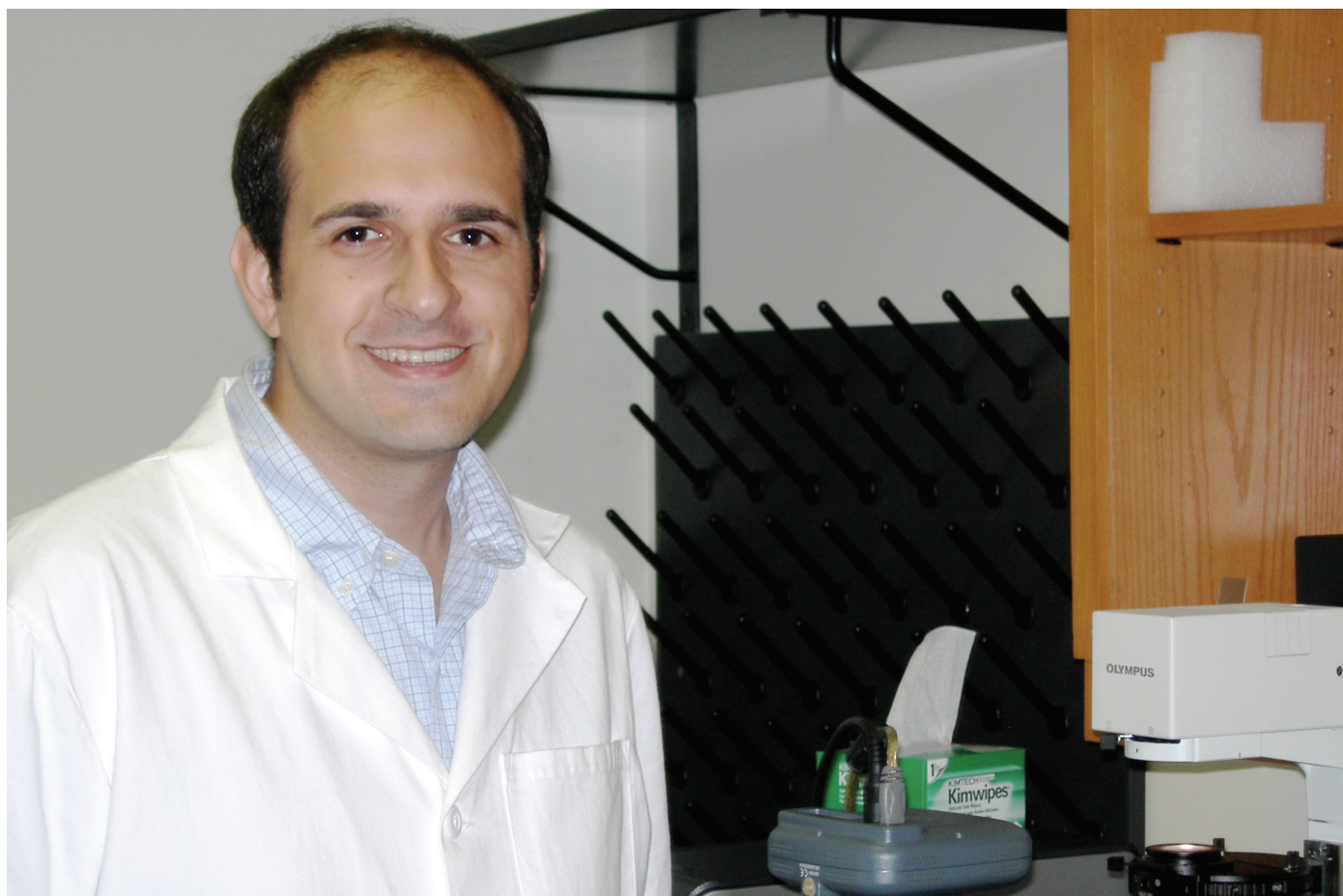
**Joe Metzger '80, Ph.D., invented a molecular "band-aid" for the failing heart.**

dystrophies."

Metzger believes integrative biology and physiology are at the leading edge of discovery of the biomedical sciences in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He feels gratified to be working in the field. "I really didn't know this career existed when I was a Saint John's," says Metzger. "It is both highly rewarding and very challenging, making it exciting and fun. I feel I am the luckiest guy in the world to have this position and to interact daily with brilliant scholars from all over the world."

Both Johnnies are clearly motivated by the "thrill of discovery" and the potential in their field. "I believe that what we now know about health and medicine is just the tip of the iceberg," Garry explains. "It's a rapidly moving field that is revolutionizing and reinventing itself."





Aaron Mohs '02, Ph.D., is investigating the use of nanotechnology and nanoparticles to create more specialized cancer therapies.

### Seeking Cancer Treatments through Nanotechnology

When Aaron Mohs '02 finished his doctoral program in pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical chemistry at the University of Utah, he was looking for a post-doc experience where he could do new and innovative research. He found it at the Emory University-Georgia Institute of Technology Center for Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence (CCNE), where he is currently a Distinguished Fellow.

"The role of our work at CCNE focuses on making cancer therapies more predictable and more personalized for individual patients," he says. Using nanotechnology and nanoparticles – extremely small molecules – Mohs' investigations seek ways to more effectively administer cancer drugs, targeting them to specific tissues, and ultimately creating more specialized cancer therapies.

"One of the major concerns with nanotechnology is the safety of nanoparticles themselves," says Mohs. A major area of my research is devoted to understanding the unique biological interactions of nanoparticles with the body. By understanding these interactions, we can not only design

the most efficient therapeutics, but also do it safely."

In addition, Mohs is collaborating with a surgeon at the University of Pennsylvania to develop nanoparticles that effectively light up tumors and surrounding cancerous tissues during surgery so surgeons can more easily see what to remove. They are also developing optical instrumentation to make this possible.

Mohs appreciates the ability to work with and talk to the "end user" at Penn on this project. "Collaboration and understanding between multiple areas of science are necessary in order to solve complex problems of disease," he says. "I am constantly interfacing and working closely with chemists, biologists and engineers to produce interdisciplinary results. Our ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life for people with cancer and improve the success rate of therapies. That's not something any scientist can tackle alone."

Mohs values the multidisciplinary nature of his post-doc experience but can appreciate an even bigger picture view in the industry today. "We also need to work with people outside of the sciences. Outstanding new technology can lead to

entrepreneurial ventures," he explains. "It's important to effectively communicate the significance and implications of your innovations to people who don't necessarily have a technical or scientific background but who will be instrumental in getting the technology into the market where people will benefit from your discoveries."

Throughout his educational experience at Saint John's and the University of Utah, Mohs says he benefited tremendously from excellent faculty mentors. One of his favorite roles in graduate school and in his fellowship has been mentoring senior undergraduates and graduate students in biomedical science and engineering. As a graduate student he received the Wolf Prize for excellence in teaching and mentoring. "Being able to help someone else achieve success in the biomedical sciences field is very gratifying," he says.

Mohs is amazed by the pace and scope of inquiry and discovery in the biomedical sciences. "I could have never anticipated so much of what is going on in science today – I'm doing things I was never exposed to," he says. "And clearly, I never anticipated doing research in nanotechnology."

### Keeping up with technology, continually learning and keeping focus on patients

"I never envisioned using something like this," Chris Longbella '81 says of the DaVinci "robot" he uses to do laparoscopic surgery. "Surgically, technology is always changing," Longbella explains. "Juggling the instruments with my hands the old-fashioned way was in a sense like playing *Twister*. Now I use a robot to do laparoscopy sitting at a console five to 10 feet away from the patient using hand and foot controls. I am more precise, have better vision, and have four robotic arms that don't get tired and don't have tremors."

"The newest surgical technologies are all about making surgical procedures accomplish more in a minimally invasive way" he adds. "With a robotic laparoscopic approach the procedures can still be difficult, but it's much easier for a surgeon to do, and a much, much easier procedure for the patient to have."

Longbella is an obstetrician/gynecologist with the Marshfield Clinic in Eau Claire, WI. The rapidly changing landscape of medicine is one thing that he loves about his profession. "I've never had a day when I didn't want to get up and go to work. I enjoy medicine, its incredible variety, and really enjoy the people I serve. It has been challenging, which I expected, but I didn't fully understand the opportunity it would give me to be a lifelong learner. Physicians need to be dedicated to asking why, to continuing to learn. I'm constantly fitting new information and experiences into my framework of understanding, trying to get better at what I do."

His love for learning was developed at Saint John's under the Benedictine influence, he says. After graduating with a degree in natural science, he taught science at Saint John's Preparatory School for four years before moving on to medical school and a residency at the University of Minnesota.

As a practicing physician, Longbella says he is compelled to keep up with the latest findings, methods, instrumentation and technology. In addition to patient care and surgery, Longbella is also involved in teaching medical students and residents as a clinical professor through both the University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin Medical Schools. He enjoys the potential to combine patient care, education and research (through the clinic's research foundation) that his current position allows.

For several years Longbella was the medical director of the Western Division of the Marshfield Clinic system. As both a director and physician leader, he helped grow the Marshfield Clinic system in western Wisconsin. "Being involved in the growth of the clinic, leadership of physicians and the day-to-day work in our specialty has been rewarding, fun and exciting," he says.

Though the Marshfield Clinic has always been aggressive about using the latest technologies, Longbella cautions that practitioners need to make sure those technological upgrades work as well for the patients as they do for the medical community. "Nothing should replace or interfere with the personal interaction you have with the patient," he says.

"Today there is so much in science and technology that we have in our bag of tricks it can be distracting. The art of



Chris Longbella '81, M.D., cautions that practitioners have to balance science and technology with the "art" of medicine.

medicine is learning how to take all that wonderful information and technology and then be a true partner and resource for the patient in applying it in a way that meets their unique needs. The key is listening, understanding their position, their perspective; helping them make decisions, helping them understand; empathizing, sympathizing. Practicing that art is the most important part of what we do."

Mary Heer-Forsberg, CSB '83, is a Twin Cities-based writer and communications consultant.





Saint John's Abbey recently opened a cemetery section for alumni and friends. The entrance, above, is south and east of the monastery section.

Photo by George Heinrich

# Alumni Served by Abbey Cemetery Expansion

By Josie Stang

"Where are our roots?" can be a hard question to answer these days. We are a transitory society. Job changes require relocations and commuting, retirees move to warmer climes and generations of children and grandchildren settle all over the country.

But for many Johnnies, the answer comes easily. They have deep roots right here, at Saint John's, where they spent their college years. Saint John's is the place they reconnect with old friends and former

professors, attend football games, hike the woods or watch their children and grandchildren receiving their own Saint John's diplomas.

Given the strong, stable connection to place that Saint John's provides for Johnnies and their families – and responding to many alumni requests – the Abbey recently opened a cemetery section for alumni and friends. With nearly 150 years of experience in the cemetery ministry, it is well aware of the importance of remem-

bering those who have been a part of this community.

After Bruce Gasperlin '78, chief financial officer of a media firm in the Twin Cities, read about the expanded cemetery and discussed it with his wife, Bonnie, they purchased Saint John's cemetery space as part of their estate planning.

"It's a perfect place for us," says Bruce Gasperlin. "From my first day at Saint John's, I experienced the legendary Johnnie hospitality, when students who didn't even

know me invited me along to lunch." That first day led to lifelong friendships and connections to a place that is "as close to heaven as you can get on earth," he says.

"Saint John's holds a very special place in our hearts. In addition to attending the university, Bonnie and I grew up nearby. It's where we got engaged, and where our girls, Emily and Anna, attend summer camp. And perhaps they'll go to college some day at CSB."

The Gasperlins planned ahead, but for others, the need comes more suddenly.

Last winter, Donald Thene '52, retired and living in Arizona, lost his wife, Joan. "I had to decide what to do with Joan's cremation remains, and when Fr. Eric Hollas suggested Saint John's Cemetery, I thought, 'Why not?' I don't mean that flippantly, but death is overwhelming. Saint John's has always been a special place to me, to both of us really. Those are good memories," he says.

"The funeral home sent Joan's ashes to Saint John's after the funeral. This past summer, our whole family came for a blessing at the cemetery, led by Fr. Eric. My sister sang, my son read the Gospel, and we all sprinkled holy water on Joan's urn. It was beautiful looking out at the lake and remembering Joan. It brought closure for me – and for our family – during a very difficult time."



Photo by Josie Stang

Bonnie and Bruce Gasperlin '78 stand in the new section of the cemetery, overlooking Lake Sagatagan.

When the Gasperlins share their plans with friends, they receive varied reactions. Some consider it prudent. Others are astounded by such long-range planning.

"But either way, it gets them thinking, 'Hmm. That's not a bad idea,'" says Bruce Gasperlin. "And I know that if an accident or untimely event happens, our family won't have to make emotional, rushed decisions."

Both Bonnie and Bruce describe feeling

a sense of peace knowing that their earthly remains will rest across the road from Lake Sagatagan, amidst the glorious changing of the seasons, near the cross keeping silent vigil – "about as close to heaven as you can get on earth."

*Josie Stang is cemetery manager of the Saint John's Cemetery. For more information, contact her at 320.363.3434 or [jstang@csbsju.edu](mailto:jstang@csbsju.edu) or visit [www.saintjohnsabeycemetery.org](http://www.saintjohnsabeycemetery.org)*

## THE SAINT JOHN'S CEMETERY

**1869:** Saint John's Abbey's first cemetery is established on land in front of the present Simons Hall.

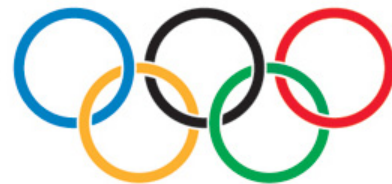
**1875:** Plans are made to move the cemetery a quarter mile south of the monastery across from Lake Sagatagan.

**1953:** Monastery's cemetery is renovated; Frank Kacmarcik, Obl.S.B., designs the distinctive Saint John's granite markers and cross.

**2007:** Saint John's Abbey approves addition of new alumni and friends cemetery section.

**2008:** Alumni and Friends section, just to the south and east of the monastery cemetery section, is officially opened and blessed.





# Schnobrich '01 Earns Olympic Medal

By Thom Woodward '70



Photo courtesy Schnobrich family

The U.S. Olympic Men's Eight Rowing Team, which won the Bronze in the Beijing Olympics 2008. Matt Schnobrich is second from left.

The opening heat for the U.S. eight-man boat didn't go as planned at the Beijing Olympics last August. After competing with 29 other honed athletes to get selected for the premier spot on the American rowing team and training for five months in the South Carolina heat, the team was out of synch almost as their oars hit the water. They had a good plan, but it wasn't executed. They covered the 2,000 meters in 5:29.6 minutes – 3.71 seconds behind Great Britain. The Americans realized they would have to come back and excel in the repack (a type of consolation race) if they wanted to be among the six boats going for the Gold.

Through it all, Matt Schnobrich '01 had

the confidence he and his teammates could win an Olympic medal. In 2004, the U.S. men's eight won the Gold Medal. Three of those Gold Medal winners were beaten out for a place in the 2008 boat by strong newcomers, Schnobrich among them. The current squad was posting better times over the 2,000-meter course. It was no slow boat to China for these guys.

It all started for Schnobrich as a freshman at Saint John's University in 1987 when the resident assistant on his dorm floor suggested that, at 6-4, he was the ideal size for a rower. The directive was simple: "Go on down to the boathouse tomorrow morning."

So as many elite American collegiate

rowers were getting scholarships and expert coaching at Harvard, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Washington and the like, Schnobrich was testing the waters on Lake Sagatagan. (His Olympic teammates would chuckle years later when he told them that the lake on Saint John's campus was too short for a full 2,000 meters. It was figure eights on the Sag.)

Schnobrich had followed a familiar family path to Saint John's. Upon graduation from St. Thomas Academy, he enrolled at his father's and his grandfather's alma mater. Like Dana '75 and Gerald '51, he planned to study sciences and become an engineer.

He figured afternoon labs would preclude

him from playing varsity sports as a Johnnie. So rowing for 45 minutes at six in the morning would fit his schedule just fine.

"Rowing was something new, different and easy to do," Schnobrich says. "Those mornings on Lake Sag were cool," he fondly recalls. "There's a mist hanging about 10 feet above the water, and then the sun comes up and you hear the bells ring. It was quite picturesque."

Schnobrich kept improving as he entered graduate school at the University of Minnesota, now training five times a week. This next directive was simple, too: "Go out to the East Coast if you are going to be serious about the sport."

Schnobrich landed a job with ARCADIS, an engineering firm which placed him in Philadelphia. Perfect! The Penn Athletic Club Rowing Association on Boathouse Row on the Schuylkill River provided even better training with others interested in making the national team. Training was up to 12 times a week but his employer approved of his two-year plan to try to get to the level of elite world rowers. A reduced workload would mean Schnobrich could go for it.

In Spring 2005, Schnobrich and his partner finished second in the national pairs race. Later that year in Japan, they took 13th in the world championships. Schnobrich gained more experience the following two summers competing in the U.S. four-man boat in England and in Germany. By the fall of 2007, he had his sights on the Beijing Olympics.

Thirty athletes were selected for the five-month training camp at Clemson, S.C. Soon that number was cut to 20. Their prize was one of 14 places on the American team: the pair, the four- or the prestigious eight-man boat. During the week-long trials selection in June, Schnobrich and his partner, having won the national pairs championship, were named to the eight-man boat. He was an Olympian! "The honor was to make the team," Schnobrich says. "A medal would be a bonus."

On August 11, the Brits won the first eight-man heat and automatically advanced to the Olympics finals; the Canadians won the other and they, too, were in. The U.S. team, third fastest in the heats, had to finish in the top four in the two consolation races the following day to make the finals. Finding their rhythm early



Photo by Row2K

A triumphant Schnobrich, center, with teammates, wearing newly won Bronze Medal.

in the 2,000-meter race, Schnobrich and mates won their repack by 1.36 seconds. On to the Medal race six days later.

Schnobrich had ample time to enjoy China and the Olympic experience. As a tourist, he found the Chinese hosts to be warm and hospitable. As a fan, he watched track, volleyball and other championship events. As an athlete, he found the competition exhilarating. "What I learned," he said, "is that it's not necessarily genetics. These were people who liked to train and to compete."

It finally came down to one last race, the Men's Eight Finals in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. "Some teams shout or pound their chests just before the start," Schnobrich said. "Or splash water. We just sit there, thinking about the task at hand."

Schnobrich was in the second seat from the bow, rowing on the starboard side. The two Americans in the front and the two in the back were each about 6-4 tall, lean, with long arms and legs. The four in the middle were 6-8 or 6-9, and weighing about 230 pounds. "This was the engine room," Schnobrich says.

The Canadians took off like a shot, as expected, Schnobrich says. At the front of the U.S. boat, he could see them pulling away. At the 500 meter mark, the Americans were dead last, 2.30 seconds behind the Canadians. But he had them out of the corner of his eye...stroke...which meant his teammates in the back DID NOT...

stroke...they had no idea how big a lead Canada had opened up...stroke. Schnobrich was hoping the team would keep to the game plan at 36 strokes a minute and not panic.

Halfway through at 1,000 meters, the U.S. had pulled into fourth place – the worst place to finish, one spot away from a medal. The Canadian lead was up to 3.93 seconds. And the Americans kept to their game plan.

As the three-quarter mark neared, the corner of Schnobrich's eye caught the back of the Canadian boat. The Americans were gaining. Now he could see two seats, and three. The difference was down to 2.60 seconds as the U.S. team moved past the Netherlands into third place.

Over the last 500 meters, the Americans had the fastest time. The race wasn't long enough, to slip past Great Britain in second or run down Canada who claimed Gold with a 1.45 second advantage.

"Whenever I see an athlete get a medal," he said, "I get teary. I know what they've been through. I was teary as the flags were raised at the podium. United States. Great Britain. Canada."

He was teary, too, as the Olympic Bronze Medal was draped around his neck. In the grandstand, his parents and grandparents and fiancée were, too.

Since Beijing, Matt has married and moved to Kentucky. The medal is now back in Kentucky in his sock drawer.



# At Home in the West Wing

## An Interview with Denis McDonough '92

By Albert Eisele '58

As if John Gagliardi hasn't won enough honors in his coaching career, he can now claim that one of his former players is the first Saint John's graduate to work in the White House.

That would be Denis McDonough '92 who helped Gagliardi's Johnnies compile a 28-4-1 record while winning two MIAC titles as a hard-hitting strong safety on the 1989, '90 and '91 gridiron teams.

But the 39-year-old Stillwater native is playing in a much tougher league now after being named deputy assistant to President Barack Obama in charge of strategic communications for the National Security Council (NSC).

McDonough, who was a senior foreign policy adviser for Obama's presidential campaign, heads a staff of about a dozen people in the office of the president's



McDonough with children Addie, on his shoulders, and Liam. (Not pictured are his wife, Kari, and youngest son, Teddy.)

national security adviser, retired Marine Gen. James Jones. As such, he will play a major role in defining the Obama administration's national security and foreign policy agenda, just as he did during the campaign.

His influential role was evident when he was quoted, just two days before Obama took the oath of office as the nation's 44th president, in a *New York Times* article exploring the challenges facing Obama, including how he can avoid being misled, in dealing with Iran, by the kind of faulty intelligence that predicted Iraq dictator Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction.

"He approaches the intelligence reports the same way he approaches a lot of the things he reads, whether it is the *New York Times* or a report from the ground," said McDonough, whom the newspaper described as "a longtime foreign policy aide who is often charged with finding answers to questions Mr. Obama raises."

(The same article also quoted an anonymous official who, it said, "is widely reported to be headed for a senior position" defending Obama from those who criticized his willingness to engage the Iranians in direct talks, unlike President Bush. Insisting that this "was the right thing to do," the unnamed official predicted that "if the Iranians don't come to the table, he's prepared to talk about cutting off their gasoline and squeezing them on sanctions." The words sounded suspiciously like McDonough's, whose new job had not been announced at the time.)

Whether it was or not, McDonough is clearly a player in the new administration. "My job is to make sure we have a very clear message about what we hope to accomplish for national security and the country, and to tell the American people

about it," McDonough told me as he prepared to move into his office in the West Wing of the White House in late January.

McDonough compares his worldwide responsibilities to playing in one of the Johnnies' big games. "It's a great honor, and I very much look forward to working in the White House, but I can't help but feel the pressure," he said. "Like any big game, if you don't feel the pressure, you're probably not ready to play to the best of your ability."

It's a pretty good bet that McDonough will bring his best game to his new job, given his foreign policy expertise, whose origins he traces to his time in Collegeville before he graduated *summa cum laude* as a history major in 1992.

He says it was Ken Jones, CSB/SJU professor of history, "who really got me interested in history, and especially modern U.S. history." And it was Thorpe Running, CSB/SJU professor of Spanish and a scholar on Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges, who sparked his interest in Latin America, where he traveled extensively after graduation and taught high school in Belize.

McDonough credits the late SJU President Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, for spurring his curiosity in the world beyond Stearns County and Stillwater, as well as his exposure to Gagliardi's renowned coaching philosophy, which he says fired his sense of competition. "You cannot get into politics and public policy debates and not be a competitive person," he declares.

But two other Saint John's graduates "probably got me most interested in foreign policy," he recalls.

One was Mike Zumwinkle, a football star who graduated in 1986 and is now an executive of Cargill, Inc., and the other was the late Cleveland Cram, who was

a top official in the Central Intelligence Agency before retiring in 1975.

Zumwinkle, who was working at the State Department, took McDonough under his wing when he came to Washington to study at Georgetown University, where he earned a master's in 1996. Zumwinkle played an even more important role in McDonough's life when he introduced him to his future wife, Kari, with whom he lives in suburban Maryland with their three children, Addie (7), Liam (4) and Teddy (1).

Cram, the avuncular former CIA station chief in London, Amsterdam and Canada and a confidant of the late Sen. Eugene McCarthy, wrote the still-secret 12-volume history of U.S. counterintelligence. McDonough still keeps in close touch with Cram's daughter Vicki, a lobbyist for the city of Seattle.

But McDonough owes his most important connection to two other people – former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota, for whom he was senior foreign policy adviser after working on the House International Foreign Relations Committee staff, and the person he calls his "best buddy," Mark Lippert.

Proving once again the Washington adage that it's not what you know but whom you know, he became friends with Lippert after Daschle, one of Obama's earliest supporters, was defeated for reelection in 2004.

"I got to know Barack then, when he was first elected to the Senate, through Mark Lippert, who advised Obama on Latin American policy," McDonough says. When Lippert, a Navy reservist, was deployed to Iraq in 2007, he brought McDonough on as a foreign policy adviser to Obama's presidential campaign. The rest,



Foreign policy adviser Denis McDonough '92 accompanies President Obama as he leaves a meeting last November.

as they say, is history.

Lippert returned from Iraq last July and is now the NSC chief of staff and McDonough's nominal boss. Their standing among Washington's new power brokers was certified by the *New York Times Magazine* on Jan. 18 when it published a "Who's Who" series of photographs of 52 key people around Obama.

McDonough was number 24, looking like he'd just done an all-nighter, with dark bags under his eyes and a pencil tucked behind his right ear. On the page directly across from him was a somber-looking Lippert, followed by their boss, former Gen. Jones. In Washington, that kind of attention is as good as having the Pope give you his imprimatur.

If McDonough needs help in navigating the Byzantine byways of the Washington

bureaucracy, he can always call on two of his former bosses. There's Daschle, and he can also reach out to the new secretary of Interior, former Sen. Ken Salazar of Colorado, for whom he was legislative director after Daschle's defeat. In fact, McDonough appears to be as well-positioned as anyone in the Obama White House.

And while McDonough may find himself wondering, in the months ahead, how he ended up in such a powerful position, he is confident that Obama, virtually a political unknown only four years ago, will live up to the high expectations surrounding his presidency. "Knowing what I know about him, I wasn't surprised that he got elected. I'm obviously elated and ecstatic, because I think his election is a sign that the country is ready for change, and hopefully, we'll deliver it."



# Kristi Bivens: At the Forefront of Change

By Rose Beauclair



Kristi Bivens (L) consults with Barbara Sutton (R), Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary director of ministerial formation and field education.

"Twinning, combining, reconfiguring, restructuring, clustering – are understandably ominous words for many Catholics," says Kristi Bivens. "They evoke uncertainty about the future of the basic unit of the church: our parish."

Bivens, a 2008 graduate of Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary, deals daily with this new future as pastoral associate for the twinned parishes of Saint Thomas Catholic Church in Kent, MN, and the Church of Saint Mary of the Presentation in Breckenridge, MN.

Saint Thomas and Saint Mary's, 12 miles apart, have been twinned since 2004 and share a single pastor. They are among 109 parishes that have been twinned or clustered by the Diocese of Saint Cloud in response to the declining number of priests.

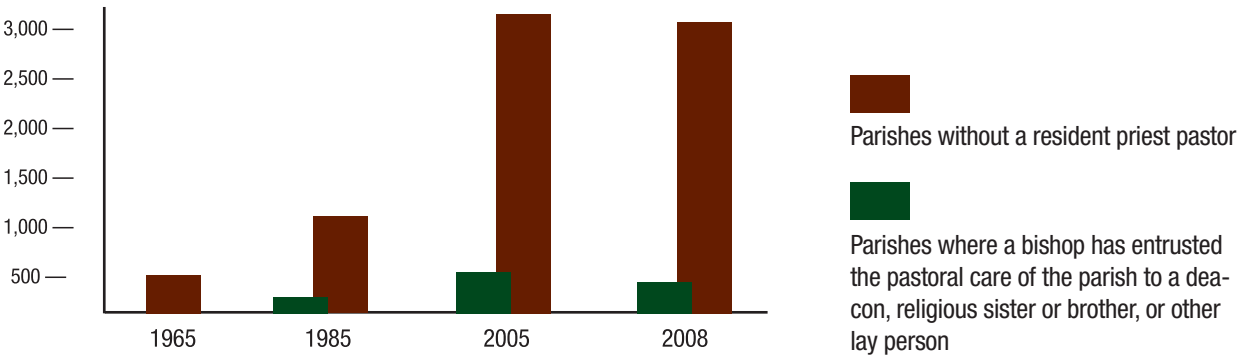
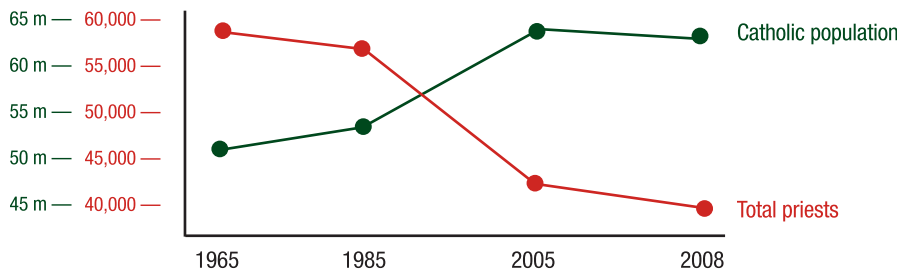
"People have all kinds of questions," says Bivens. "They ask 'what will become of the place where we pray, hear the word of God, receive the Eucharist. Where our children learn the faith; where we are baptized, married and buried? What will become of our local traditions, our preferred Mass time?' This uncertainty can stir up feelings of anger, loss, even resentment." For Catholics in and around Kent and Breckenridge, Bivens says, "It's still kind of new. There are some real, and, I suppose, legitimate fears." In this environment, she adds, efforts to work together do not always arise

organically, so cooperation has to be planned and continuously encouraged.

"It's a lot to undertake, but it's not something you're going to do overnight," she says. "You have to allow people the time and space to deal with the pain they may be experiencing in the change, while also encouraging them to see the gifts and opportunities that can come with an expanded community of faith."

Parish life and church ministry are changing, not only in rural Minnesota but around the country. The number of active priests in the United States has declined significantly over the past few decades, a trend that is expected to continue, while the number of Catholics has risen. This has challenged the understanding of what it means to be a parish, how ministry in the parish is done and, most visibly, who does it.

Bivens is one of a growing number of lay ecclesial ministers, professionally trained to do much of the non-sacramental pastoral and educational work previously done by priests and sisters. The School of Theology-Seminary has been a pioneer in preparing people for this work. For more than 40 years it has taught lay students together with seminarians. "If lay ministers are going to do the work once done by priests," notes Dean Bill Cahoy, dean, School of Theology-Seminary "our parishes need them to have the



Since 1965, the number of Catholic priests in the U.S. has been declining while the Catholic population has increased (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate). This has led to the combining of parishes and an increased role for trained lay Catholics like Kristi Bivens, pastoral associate, in the life of today's parishes.

same quality education as the priests."

The role of a priest is significant and irreplaceable, but the work of lay ministers is increasingly important to the continued vitality – in some cases even the continued existence – of Catholic parishes.

"The rise in lay ecclesial ministry partially comes from that Vatican II ideal that lay people are part of the Body of Christ and the ministry of the Church," explains Bivens. "But at this point there's going to be a need for lay ministers to help out so that priests will be more available for sacraments and counseling and those parts of a priest's job that lay people can't do."

As a student at Saint John's, Bivens researched and wrote about the future of parishes in the U.S. Her article, "Where Two or Three are Gathered: Clustered Parishes Are Our Future," in the spring 2008 issue of the School of Theology-Seminary journal *Obsculta* explored a process for clustered parishes to follow in order to work together more closely. Additional copies of the article have been repeatedly requested by readers, bearing out the increasing importance of the topic to parishes nationwide.

Bivens's position at Saint Mary's and Saint Thomas has enabled her to put her research to work. She particularly sees a chance for increasing cooperation in the youth ministry programs of the two

parishes. "Kids are open, and so the more opportunities they have to gather, the happier they are," Bivens points out. "I think it's a good place to start. No one wants to deny kids the opportunity to gather as faithful people."

"I have to admit, when I started here I thought 'Oh, I'm never going to be ready for this job, I don't know what I'm doing.' But it amazed me. There hasn't been anything here that I haven't had experience with in my time at Saint John's."

As she looks to the future, she sees "an opportunity to create new traditions, to grow in faith, to trust that this church has been here for 2,000 years, and it will be here for another 2,000. It doesn't look anything like it did when it first started. It doesn't look like it did 50 years ago before Vatican II. We just have to have faith that the church is growing and changing as God envisioned."

Now, as a full-time pastoral associate for twinned parishes, Bivens sees the relationship of her two parishes, and similar arrangements in parishes around the country, as a good thing. "I feel like it's an opportunity for growth in the church. Clustering gives me hope."

For a copy of Bivens's article "Where Two or Three are Gathered: Clustered Parishes Are Our Future," contact the editors of *Obsculta* at [obsacula@csbsju.edu](mailto:obsacula@csbsju.edu) or call 320.363.3924.



# A Giant in Minnesota Politics and Economics



Photo courtesy of the Humphrey Institute

John Brandl '59, educator, legislator and civic leader

John Brandl '59, a former Minnesota legislator, Distinguished Professor of Public Policy at Saint John's University and professor and former dean of the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, passed away last August.

"John Brandl was a giant in Minnesota politics and economics," said Br. Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, marking the passing of this distinguished alumnus. "He combined a brilliant mind for scholarship with an unusual ability to apply theory and research as a public servant in numerous policy-making positions, both in Minnesota and at the national level."

"The Benedictines at Saint John's opened up the world to a kid born and raised in Stearns County," said Brandl in an interview in 2002. He graduated *cum laude* with a degree in economics and went on to earn an M.A. and Ph.D in economics from Harvard University. "I majored in economics at Saint John's University because the great Fr. Martin Schirber saw potential and challenged me to do so." Fr. Martin Schirber '31, OSB, taught economics at Saint John's from 1939-79.

Brandl held positions at the federal level in the U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense, Office of Economic Opportunity, the Economic Development Administration, and as Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He served in the Minnesota Legislature for 12 years. In addition to faculty positions at alma maters Saint John's University and Harvard University, he held teaching positions at Boston College, the University of Wisconsin, the University of the Philippines and the University of Sydney. He served as president of several national and regional groups and received many civic honors and awards. Brandl was the author of numerous books, monographs, articles and reviews.

The Brandl Scholars Program celebrates John Brandl's life-long commitment to mentorship and scholarship in higher education, public policy and politics. The endowment will fund summer public policy research projects conducted by students and faculty. These collaborative research projects will range from local to international policy arenas, reflecting Dr. Brandl's diverse career and CSB/SJU's commitment to ethical leadership and the common good. The Brandl Scholars will participate in a broad range of experiential learning opportunities under close faculty mentorship.

## John Brandl Scholars

Dan Whalen '70, interim president of Saint John's, and his wife, Katharine, have made a generous gift to the Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement to endow the John Brandl Scholars.

"John Brandl's accomplishments as educator, legislator and civic leader serve as a model for all of us. I can think of no better way to honor him than to encourage today's students to learn from his example through the John Brandl Scholars program."

— Dan Whalen '70

*Editor's note: Franklin Knoll '62, retired district court judge, former Minnesota state representative and senator from District 61, wrote a moving letter to the editor of the Minneapolis Star Tribune (Aug. 26, 2008) on Brandl's passing, which we reprint below.*

"Since his death last week, much has been said about the impact of John Brandl's life on our community, our state and, indeed, our nation; all appropriate, all true. John was a great public servant and a towering intellect. The enduring memory I will have of him, however, will be that he was always teaching us.

I had the privilege of knowing John for almost 50 years as a family friend, neighbor and legislative colleague. We both grew up in St. Cloud, attended Saint John's University and went on to represent successively the same south Minneapolis district in the State legislature. (John took my House seat when I went to the Senate and then my Senate seat when I became a District Judge).

We carpooled to and from the Capitol during legislative sessions and it was then that I had the opportunity to experience on a regular basis John's great mind and his gentle persuasiveness. He

"John was a great public servant and a towering intellect. The enduring memory I will have of him, however, will be that he was always teaching us."

Franklin Knoll '62  
District Court Judge (Ret.)

possessed a genuine belief that this world could be made a better place. We talked about everything: our families, books, tax policy, theology, presidents, governors, good and bad politicians, our legislative proposals, Stearns County dialects and most often, his obsession, public education. He was always teaching; I was always

learning.

Shortly before he died, I went to see him in the hospital to say goodbye. I went with some apprehension, knowing there would be tubes and beeping monitoring devices and that John would be looking frail. I was afraid I might say something inappropriately maudlin or sentimental and perhaps add to his discomfort. When I entered his room, though, he immediately put us both at ease, saying simply, "I love you, Frank. Thanks for coming over to help me die". We hugged each other, I told him I loved him and we proceeded to chat about fishing and growing up in Stearns County. I left him with an overwhelming sense of peace.

It seemed John was always teaching us, even teaching us how to die."



# ADVANCING THE MISSION

## Community Center Named in Honor of McKeown '52

Saint John's University received a leadership gift commitment from the McKeown and Cullen families to name the new community center being built in Flynntown after alumnus Thomas W. McKeown '52.

"We are greatly honored that members of the McKeown and Cullen families have provided this leadership gift to Saint John's," said Dan Whalen, SJU interim president. "Since his graduation, Tom has amassed a remarkable history of service and support for Saint John's. We're delighted that his family has recognized Tom's 60-year relationship to Saint John's past and his faith in our future. I am certain that the McKeown Center will be a valued addition to our community and campus life for many years to come."

"Dad's legacy from his volunteer work in St. Paul is around community building," said Dan McKeown '85. "The McKeown Center is a perfect example of community building at SJU that completes the circle of Dad's decades of volunteering. Our father has set an example for all of us to serve others. This building symbolizes his six decades of service to the community of SJU."

"Community has always been a core element of the Saint John's mission," said Michael Connolly, SJU dean of students. "The McKeown Center in Flynntown will be an example of the mission in action. The center will provide a gathering point for students on the lower campus and is designed as a destination point to help them strive academically and recreate casually with their fellow classmates."

Saint John's broke ground for the 7,500-square-foot environmentally designed McKeown Center last July. At the groundbreaking ceremony, the late Br. Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, SJU president emeritus, praised the new housing as "a meeting grounds where life and learning intersect, self-knowledge and leadership quicken, and friendship grows."

The McKeown Center is scheduled to open in August.



Tom McKeown '52

Tom McKeown, in whose honor the new community center is named, attended Saint John's Prep School and graduated from Saint John's University in 1952. He was director of university relations at Saint John's from 1955 to 1960 and was the first lay person to hold that position. He received the prestigious Fr. Walter Reger Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1993.

McKeown is a former member of the Saint John's University Board of Regents and served as the chair from 1987 to 1992. He is also a past president of the Saint John's Alumni Board. He has served on the Board of Overseers of the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library at Saint John's and currently serves on the Board of Overseers of Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary.

*"I'm honored and humbled to have a building named after our family, and I'm extremely proud of our children for making this possible. I've had a 60-year relationship with Saint John's. It's been my second family. The Benedictines have had a profound and important influence on my life."*

—Tom McKeown '52

## Lindmark Endowment for Corporate-Business Ethics

Thanks to Roger Lindmark '74, Saint John's University recently received \$250,000 from a \$350 million legal settlement. The gift has been designated to the Lindmark Endowment for Corporate-Business Ethics. Lindmark's client in Los Angeles was a plaintiff in a class action lawsuit filed against Sempra Energy, the major California gas company, alleging the company conspired with El Paso Gas in the late 1990s to restrict the supply of natural gas to California, resulting in higher costs for the consumer. The class of California gas and electric customers were millions of state citizens. The class action alleged that the conspiracy to fix energy prices contributed to California's energy crisis of 2000-01.



Roger Lindmark '74

"When we reached a settlement of my portion of the case I asked the judge for a *cy pres* donation to compensate society," Lindmark explains. "I suggested that a donation ought to be designated for the Lindmark Endowment for Corporate-Business Ethics at Saint John's. Actually, required donations of this kind are quite common in class action law suits as gifts to charities as further punishment. I encourage Johnnies attorneys who are involved in such cases to keep in mind that *cy pres* donations can be directed to Saint John's and designated to this endowment."

About four years ago, Saint John's University received a *cy pres* distribution from another class action lawsuit which Lindmark worked on in California. This launched the Lindmark Endowment for Corporate-Business Ethics, which provides resources to fund programs and activities in the field of corporate-business ethics.

To coincide with Saint John's newly established common curriculum course requirement in ethics for all students, this endowment will fund two Lindmark Fellowships annually. Lindmark Fellows will be selected from a pool of applicants. Each will conduct a summer-long research project in ethics culminating in a major academic paper. The generous fellowship award will allow Johnnies to complete this work in lieu of summer employment. They will present their work at the annual Celebrating Scholarship and Creativity Day the following spring and hopefully publish their research papers in national academic journals.

"I am proud to lend my name to the creation of the Lindmark Fellows as a key component of this endowed fund," says Lindmark. "The fact that these students from all academic disciplines will have an opportunity to have their research published will benefit them in their graduate school applications or employment as well as help put Saint John's on the map of corporate ethics. Sadly, we see a breach of ethics across all facets of society, so this endowment is more critical and relevant now than ever before."



# The Grappler: Grant Eustice '09

By John Taylor '58

If your idea of wrestlers comes from those loud, illiterate-sounding guys on television – meet Grant Eustice '09 and reconsider. This well-spoken, serious, 174-pound psychology/Spanish double major is captain of the Johnnie wrestlers.

A running back, wrestler and rugby player at Mounds View, High School in Minnesota, you might not have expected Eustice to choose wrestling at SJU – his dad, Brad Eustice '77, was on the 1976 national football championship team. But Eustice says that although his dad brought him and his siblings to SJU football games, he didn't impose sports or college decisions on them.

"I never visited the coach prior to coming to Saint John's," says Eustice. "I showed up on the first day of wrestling practice and had to introduce myself to Coach Novak."

During his SJU career, Eustice has been able to wrestle, maintain a 3.5 GPA and spend a junior-year semester in Chile.

"I found that Chile, and living with a family that was not my own, was the most challenging period in my life. My class in social psychology came to life.

"I observed racism and stereotyping all around me, particularly toward the poor. Although I attended classes with Bennies and Johnnies, I went home to my host family each day, so I was pretty immersed. I also had the opportunity to be a volunteer, teaching English to 14-year olds."

Eustice has had several internships in business. Enough, he said, to convince him that this is not what he wants to do with his life. "I love teaching and helping. This past summer I was a volunteer at the Hennepin County Medical Center, working with Spanish speaking adolescents who had psychological or medical issues. I would love to do something along those lines."



Grant Eustice '09, captain of the Johnnie wrestlers, goes head to head with Justin Bain of St. Olaf.

gojohnnies.com



**FOOTBALL** (8-3, 6-2 MIAC) earned its MIAC-record 30th conference championship, the 26th title under head coach John Gagliardi, and the 13th in the last 18 seasons. The Johnnies earned a berth in the NCAA Division III playoffs for the fourth consecutive season and 19th overall (23rd post-season appearance overall) but fell in the first round to defending national champion Wisconsin-Whitewater, 37-7. Offensive lineman Dan Gamache '09, kicker/punter Russell Gliadon '09, defensive lineman Mike Schumacher '09, defensive back Derek Stifter '09 and linebacker Ryan Wimmer '10 were named to the 2008 All-MIAC first team. Running back Jeff Schnobrich '09 was named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America college division second team. Legendary head coach John Gagliardi, the winningest coach in college football history, finished his

60th season with a 461-125-11 (.782) career record and a 437-119-10 (.781) record in 56 seasons at SJU.

**SOCCER** (11-6-1, 6-3-1 MIAC). Jason Daly '09, Levi Lowell '09 and Chris Schultz '09 were named to the 2008 All-MIAC first team. Head coach Pat Haws completed his 31st season at the helm of the Johnnies' soccer program with a 336-129-48 (.702) career record.

**CROSS COUNTRY** finished fifth at the MIAC championship and second at the NCAA Central Regional to earn its fourth consecutive invitation to the NCAA Division III Championship. The Johnnies finished 22nd out of 32 teams at the national meet. The race was the Johnnies' 24th appearance at the NCAA Championship and the 20th appearance under head coach Tim Miles, who completed his 30th season this fall.

**GOLF** won its fourth MIAC Championship in the last five years this past October. The two-time defending national champion golf team will make its 10th consecutive trip to the NCAA Division III Championship May 12-15 at Port St. Lucie, FL. Joe Schoolmeesters '09 claimed medalist honors for the second time in his career with a three-day total of 218 (+2). Schoolmeesters finished the fall season atop the MIAC with a 71.8 stroke average, while fellow team member Joe Daly '09 finished second with a stroke average of 73.6. Seven of the top 10 stroke averages in the MIAC are held by Johnnies.

## CLUB SPORTS

**RUGBY**, a five-time defending state champion and 15th ranked team in the nation, sponsored two teams this year: the A side in Division II and the B side in DIII. The A team won the Minnesota Final 4 in Eagan with wins over MSU Mankato (52-5) and UM Duluth (41-14). They went on to defeat Marquette (23-17) in the first round of the



Midwest Round of 16 Iowa Falls, IA and beat the University of Iowa (14-12) in 30 m.p.h winds. At the Midwest Final Four in Elkhart, IN, the Johnnies were defeated by Miami-Ohio (36-10), ending a 12-game winning streak.

**LACROSSE** (12-4, 9-1 conference) lost the quarterfinal game in the 2008 Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association National Championship to the University of Dayton 17-9. Jon Ongjoco '09 notched six points (5 goals, 1 assist). Captain Brian Strauss '10, junior, attack; Tony Donna '12 first year, defense; Captain Michael Freeman '10, defense; and Brian Kubovec '11, defense were named All Conference. Six others, including Ongjoco were named to the second team.

**ROWING** competed in three regattas this season: the Death Row in Duluth, MN, the Head of the Des Moines, IA, and the North Star Challenge in Minneapolis. They rowed against collegiate and non-collegiate clubs and varsity teams, ranging from Division I to Division III. A highlight of the season was the hosting of former Johnnie rower Matt Schnobrich '01, a bronze medalist in the 2008 Olympics.

**WATER POLO** won every game in its last tournament at Macalester (Knox, St. Mary's, Carleton and Monmouth), before falling to #1-ranked Monmouth. Water polo's Heartland Division championships were hosted at SJU.



gojohnnies.com



Alumni Volunteer Summit: Johnnies in Action

Each year over 100 alumni converge at Saint John's in May for the Alumni Volunteer Summit hosted by the Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Alumni Office. The Summit is a gathering of alumni from around the country who serve in a variety of leadership roles with class committees, alumni chapters, the alumni-in-education project, Fellows Society, the Alumni Board past presidents' group and the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

For many alumni, giving back to alma mater and the Saint John's community has become a way of life, full of enthusiasm and purpose. They are eager to offer their time, talent and leadership to explore ways to build class camaraderie, create and

expand alumni chapters worldwide and support today's students through career mentoring and internships. The Summit gives these volunteers an opportunity to develop a common vision to serve our

**Get Connected, Stay Involved**

All alumni are invited to the annual Alumni Volunteer Summit on May 15 and 16. Activities Friday include Mass, a social and dinner. Working sessions on Saturday are interspersed with meals, campus tours and networking. Registration is free. Remember: The Johnnie fellowship is second to none!

alumni and students, learn and socialize, and explore the wonders of Saint John's.

The Alumni Association would like to extend an open invitation to alumni interested in giving back to alma mater through service and time. If you're interested in mentoring a student, participating in an existing chapter or starting one in your area, the Summit will give you the tools you need to get started. If you serve on a class committee or want to get involved to help plan your next class activity or class reunion, then the Alumni Volunteer Summit is the right destination.

For more information on the Alumni Volunteer Summit, Friday night and Saturday, May 15 and 16, go to [sjualum.com](http://sjualum.com) and click on Events.

Events Calendar
March 19, 2009 St. Patrick's Day Celebration Naples, FL
April 17, 2009 Saint John's Day: Celebrating Br. Dietrich Reinhart Collegeville, MN
May 15-16, 2009 Alumni Volunteer Summit Collegeville, MN
October 2, 2009 Alumni Association Homecoming Banquet Collegeville, MN
October 2-4, 2009 Homecoming and Reunions Collegeville, MN

If you would like to visit the Abbey as a Vocation guest, please contact us at:  
[www.abbeyvocations.com](http://www.abbeyvocations.com)  
320.363.2548

**"PREFER NOTHING WHATEVER TO CHRIST."**  
*Rule of Saint Benedict*

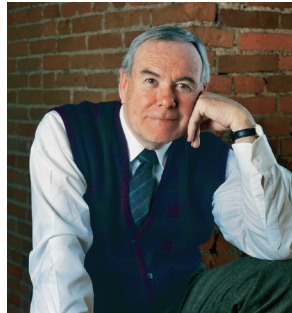
HOMECOMING/REUNION 2008

Alumni gathered from near and far to renew and enjoy their connection to Saint John's last September.





## Johnnies in the Media



The late **Jon Hassler '55** and Saint John's were featured in *American Magazine* in a November article titled "The Last Catholic Novelist," by Andrew M. Greeley. In the article Greeley maintains that Hassler "produced at least a half dozen novels that would belong in any course on Catholic fiction ... In fact, they may define the genre."

He goes on to say that "St. John's pervasive and unique influence on the church in this country, in particular, demands more intense study. The environs and culture of Staggerford, Rookery College, the Abbey Press, Bad Battle River, Pluto, Ostrogothinburg (St. Cloud?) the Clementine Fathers, Godfrey Diekmann and Lake Wobegon seem to demand more coordinated and more intense investigation."

**Tim Marx '79** was interviewed by the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* in October as he prepared to leave his position as commissioner of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to become executive director of Common Ground, a New York-based housing and community development nonprofit. When asked to reflect on his more than 20 years in public service and civic involvement in St. Paul and Minnesota, Marx had special thanks for Saint John's University and professor John Brandl '59 (dec). He quoted both the *Rule of Saint Benedict* and Brandl in his comments.



**Marcellus Hall '86**, New York-based artist, illustrated the cover of the Dec. 15 issue of the *New Yorker* magazine. The cover is titled "Green Christmas." Hall's first cover for the *New Yorker* was published in 2005. His work has also appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Atlantic Monthly* and *Time*, among other publications.



**George Maurer '88**, musician and composer, won a \$10,000 grant from the American Composers Forum (ACF) to become composer-in-residence at St. Edward Catholic Church and Emmanuel Lutheran Church, both in Princeton, MN. During the 18-month residency, Maurer plans to create "innovative and

inspiring" works for both churches and their ensembles, as well as combined works that will be performed jointly. "I look forward to getting down to observing and learning about the personalities of these two faith communities, and letting them influence my musical voice," said Maurer. The ACF was founded in 1973 to support composers through programs and services, including commissions, performances, readings and fellowships.



**Mark Sullivan '89**, chef and partner of Spruce Restaurant in San Francisco, CA, appeared in *Esquire* magazine's best restaurants ranking of 2008. Spruce was ranked one of the 20 best restaurants in the country.

**Dan Bieurance '92** was featured in both the *Star Tribune* in October and "Lou Dobbs Tonight" on CNN in December for his work in uncovering Medicaid insurance fraud at Walgreen's Pharmacy, where he worked as a pharmacist. Brian Wojtalewicz '72, one of the lawyers who handled the case filed against Walgreen's, was also mentioned in the article. The case resulted in a \$9.9 million settlement, according to the *Star Tribune*.

**Mark McGowan '93**, Shaun Johnson '94 and fellow members of Tonic Sol-Fa, an a cappella group founded by McGowan and Johnson as students at Saint John's, were honored by the City of Minneapolis on Dec. 13. Mayor of Minneapolis R.T. Rybak declared Dec. 13th Tonic Sol-Fa Day in honor of the group's success. KARE-11 Television presented them with a proclamation marking the occasion. Tonic Sol-Fa has sold more than a million CDs worldwide in its 12-year career and has shared the stage with Garrison Keillor, Jay Leno, Jeff Foxworthy, Lonestar, Montgomery Gentry and others.



**Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB**, director of the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) at SJU, was featured on "Speaking of Faith" on Minnesota Public Radio in January. Show host Krista Tippet interviewed both Fr. Columba and Getatchew Haile, curator of HMML's Ethiopian collection, about HMML's work, its collections and the relevance of ancient manuscripts to the present.

## As Time Goes By...

- A common class schedule for one group of Saint John's University students grew into annual fishing trips to Canada or Voyageur's National Park or other points Up North.
- A Johnnie intramural softball team plays "old-timer games" at summer reunions 35 years later, although the grandchildren are now working their way into the Cold Ducks lineup.
- Another group of alumni keeps meticulous records of their yearly gatherings. After all, bragging rights are a big part of the Peg 'n' Keg cribbage tournament that started in 1975.
- Younger alumni, too, are establishing a connection to one another and to Saint John's that likely will rival the monthly lunch meeting (no agenda allowed) of a group of Johnnies from the 1940s and '50s.

### The Breakfast Club

Bob Hendrickson '79 claims a number of lifelong friends from the 1-3-5 Breakfast Club. Before their 8 a.m. biology class on Days 1, 3 and 5 during freshman year, they had breakfast together, compared notes on upcoming tests and, unknowingly, began to forge a connection that would span decades. When Hendrickson made a cardboard "1-3-5 Breakfast Club" table tent, other freshmen with similar class schedules joined in. For one of the

guys, the friendship led to marrying a friend's sister.

"Although we see each other only a few times a year," Hendrickson says, "we remain good friends." He and his wife, Kathy (Molitor CSB '79), are closest to Greg '79 and Beth Lambert Engel (CSB '80); Jim '79 and Nancy Jarvis; Bill '79 and Janice Hamilton; Tim '79 and Monica Engel Marx (CSB '81 and Greg's sister); and Tom '79 and Cindy Hoffman. They all live in the Twin Cities. Hendrickson

stays in email contact with John '79 and Sue Carpenter McHale (CSB '80) of Council Bluffs, IA and Bob '79 and Mary Gonderinger of Omaha, NE and occasionally sees other Johnnies from the refectory breakfast table.

Another tradition for Hendrickson, Engel, Hamilton and Jarvis: an evening out each year at a University of Minnesota basketball game.

Jarvis recalls that after graduation, several lived together while starting careers or professional school. "We had a number of occasions to wear tuxedos at our friends' weddings," he says. "We'd lose a roommate, but another Saint John's friend would move in. We've stayed in touch as careers went different directions or when life had its ups and downs."

Jarvis has been organizing the group's fishing trips since 1990. He hosted the excursion at Pelican Lake this past summer. "It's always fun," he says.



It started with breakfast in the Saint John's refectory 20 years ago. Now members of the 1-3-5 Breakfast club get together for breakfast on an annual fishing excursion. From left are Bob Hendrickson '79, Greg Engel '79 and Jim Jarvis '79.

Tell us about your Johnnie connection, and we'll post it on the Alumni Association Web page. Pictures are welcome, too. Send your story to [johnemail@csbsju.edu](mailto:johnemail@csbsju.edu).



### On the Diamond with the Cold Ducks

The Cold Ducks bonded when they played intramural softball together in the early 1970s and they haven't missed a summer get-together yet. Denny Smid '73, one of the original six Cold Ducks, says they rotate chairing the reunion with a formal hand-off of a book passed from one chair to the next.

There's even a ritual to get the invitations out." In addition to two cruises, reunions have been held in Omaha, Collegeville, Milwaukee, Chicago, Twin Cities, Granville, IA, northern Wisconsin and back on campus.

The original Ducks included three classmates from Granville, Daryl Beckman

'73, Dale Goergen '73 and Smid along with Jim Welch '73, Bill Hawn '73 and Greg Carlson '73, friends from Tommy Hall 3 Long. Freshman year they formed a softball team that included George Lyons '73, Vince Carco '73, who was also Smid's debate partner, and Mike McCarthy '73. They later added Joe Dirksen '73, Tom Mahoney '73, Steve Armstrong '73, Jim Nolan '73, Jon Witt '73, Bob Schneeweis '73, Bob Cocker '74, Steve Conroy '74, honorary members Mike Meyer '72 and Randy Penning '74, and Kevin Hauer '73, who gained notoriety as The Animal – he'd strip to a final pair of underwear as unsanctioned halftime entertainment at Johnnie home basketball games. The Ducks won the 1972 intramural softball

championship as juniors in the last year of Saint John's Old Gym and repeated as seniors in 1973 in the first year of the Warner Palaestra.

In 1976, Welsh organized a team reunion in Chicago. In '77, they won a softball tournament back in Granville. They've been getting together – generally 15 of the expanded team roster – at least once a year ever since. And of course, spouses, children and grandchildren are now central to the reunions.

Smid points out, "The children have even gotten together on their own – even those who went to St. Thomas instead of SJU and CSB. One daughter had children of Ducks in her wedding party." Eleven of the 15 Ducks were at Carlson's daughter's



The Cold Duck team in 1973:

(Front, L to R) Bob Cocker '74, Daryl Beckman '73, Jim Welch '73, Kevin Hauer '74, Steve Conroy '74. (Middle, L to R) Jim Nolan '73, Dale Goergen '73, Greg Carlson '73, Bill Hawn '73. (Back, L to R) Denny Smid '73, Bob Schneeweis '73, Steve Armstrong '73, Joe Dirksen '73. Not shown: Tom Mahoney '73, Jon Witt '73, Mike Meyer (honorary - '72), Randy Penning (honorary - '74)

[sjualum.com](http://sjualum.com)

*"It definitely shows that your friends of freshman year will likely be your friends in years to come."*

Bob Danielson '99

wedding in Milwaukee this past fall. "Joe Dirksen's daughter, Erin, even keeps a Web site for the Ducks, coldduckreunion.blogspot.com," he adds, "to keep everyone up to date."

"The Cold Ducks are one of the nicest things that every happened to me," Smid says.

### Peg 'n Keg, Anyone?

About the time the Cold Ducks were hitting the diamond, another group of Johnnies found cribbage to be the common denominator. It still is.

"We played a lot of cribbage as students," John Forsythe '74, recalls, "but we never organized an actual tournament to decide once and for all who was the best of the best. So, in April 1975, 16 participants, 10 Johnnie upperclassmen and four recent graduates, held the inaugural Peg 'n Keg Cribbage Tournament.

"Dave Hartmann '75 and Phil Johnson '75 stood alone," Forsythe recalls, "having bested Hank Fehrenbacher '77 and Larry Forsythe '76 in a bitterly contested championship match as the keg gave up its final pint." Forsythe has organized 33 succeeding annual tournaments – despite the fact he and his partner, Dan McConnell '76, lost every single match that first year "amid considerable finger-pointing," Forsythe adds.

"Our one-time event found eternal life when I found myself working at Saint John's," Forsythe says, "first in the Abbey Woodworking Shop and later in admissions." Founder of BoDiddley's Deli in St. Joseph and St. Cloud, Forsythe has remained in the area and continued as the tournament organizer. Scott Furey '74 has kept the score for 32 of the past 33 years.

The second "Peg 'n Keg" grew from 16

to 32 players, and the venue went from the Frank House study lounge to the Alumni Lounge to the newly-opened BoDiddley's in 1981. The tournament expanded to its current size of 32 teams of two as it moved across the street to the LaPlayette. "We've continued with the same core of 64 players and half a dozen spectators," Forsythe says. The date has been fixed as the first Saturday in February each year.

"What started out as a fairly competitive cribbage tournament has evolved into a reunion of friends who share that special Saint John's – Saint Ben's connection with cribbage as a backdrop," he says. "I've always felt that there is no substitute for the bond of shared time and share experience.

"As students at a highly residential university such as Saint John's, in a gorgeous rural setting free from distractions, we simply had more share time and experience than students at almost any other college I know of. Our closest classmates were like family members for nine months out of four years. That is why the bond is so strong. Organizing this tournament," Forsythe says, "is a highlight of my year knowing that the event is helping continue and strengthen that connection that began for us some 30 years ago."

### The Back Room at Coopers

Bob Danielson '99 and a group of classmates are 10 years into the process. They'll celebrate a class reunion at Homecoming Oct. 2-4. Prior to the big weekend, however, they'll be together at other occasions in the coming months.

"Our group is smallish," Danielson says, "with seven of us at the core and a few add-ons as we've kept going. Mostly we started out as Tommy 4 guys freshman year and adopted in another friend

sophomore year. Our gatherings these days have picked up a few other Johnnies and Bennies, but our main reasons for gathering these days are Homecoming, baptisms and weddings. A smaller group of us tend to get together for happy hours periodically, too, as three of us work in downtown Minneapolis.

"It definitely shows," Danielson says, "that your friends of freshman year will likely be your friends in years to come."

Danielson and buddies are following a model established by Jack O'Connell '42 and two deceased friends who overlapped as student-athletes at Saint John's, Vern McGree '38 and Jim Roche '40. The three of them began having occasional lunches together some 30 years ago "to find out what's new with one another, share news, discuss politics and current issues," O'Connell says. "After a while, we called others to join, guys who were at Saint John's after World War II. Sen. Eugene McCarthy '35 would join us from time to time. We normally would have 12-15 guys together, and as many as 21. The numbers are dwindling now."

O'Connell, a former vice president on the SJU Alumni Association Board of Directors and recipient of the Fr. Walter Reger Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1985, says the group never talks business. Discussions about Saint John's would be about athletics and alumni events, "but never fund-raising.

"We'll discuss how great we were," he kids, "and we're even better now that fewer can dispute what we say!"

All are welcome to their lunch gatherings each first Monday of the month in the back room at Cooper's in Eagan, but there better not be any mention of business, O'Connell insists.

[sjualum.com](http://sjualum.com)



		'02	Andrea (Schlenner '04) to <b>Paul Friend</b> '02, July '06	'04	Erin (Troutfetter '04) to <b>Alexander Jude</b> '04, Oct. '08
'68	Vicki Lansky to <b>Stephen Schaefer</b> '68, May '08	'02	Kirsten to <b>Jesse Jennissen</b> '02, Mar. '08	'04	Jill (Podgroski '04) to <b>Nate Kopetka</b> '04, Aug. '08
'80	Julianne to <b>Tim Buttweiler</b> '80, Aug. '08	'02	Tammy Tuckosh to <b>Daniel O'Neill</b> '02, Feb. '08	'04	Amy Zierden to <b>Joshua Meyer</b> '04, Aug. '08
'96	Carla Bishop to <b>Luke Froehle</b> '96, May '08	'02	Susan (Wimmer '02) to <b>Chris Sexton</b> '02, May '08	'04	Tammy Tuckosh to <b>Jack Moore</b> '04, Feb. '08
'97	Marcy to <b>David Camarotto</b> '97, Sept. '07		Heather (Hinnenkamp '01) to <b>Chris Stanley</b> '02, June '07	'04	Mary Beth (Gleason '04) to <b>Peter Mueller</b> '04, May '08
'97	Kelli to <b>Brian Sontag</b> '97, Nov. '08	'02	Kelly (Shroyer '03) to <b>Anthony Anderson</b> '03, Aug. '07	'04	Brigette (McKenzie '04) to <b>Adam Pettit</b> '04, Oct. '08
'98	Rikki Bush to <b>Joe Mortl</b> '98, Aug. '08	'02	Stephanie (Casey '03) to <b>Ryan Bielat</b> '03, May '08	'04	Rachel (Wermager '05) to <b>Travis Rajdl</b> '04, June '08
'98	Rachel Stang to <b>John Rossman</b> '98, Oct. '08	'03	Megan (Sand '06) to <b>Charlie Carr</b> '03, July '08	'04	Marie Tax to <b>Scott Schmitz</b> '04, Apr. '08
'99	Heather (Butkowski '99) to <b>Dan Hinrichs</b> '99, Apr. '08	'03	Diane (Pelant '05) to <b>Brian Connelly</b> '03, Aug. '08	'04	Alissa (Keene '04) to <b>Josh Theis</b> '04, July '08
'99	Tina Wenzl to <b>Jason Velinsky</b> '99, July '08	'03	Emily Kennedy to <b>Jeff Donnay</b> '03, July '08	'04	Jennifer (Scarrella '07) to <b>Matthew Vos</b> '04, May '08
'00	Krista to <b>Brian Huot</b> '00, Sept. '06	'03	Megan to <b>Timothy Fredrickson</b> '03, Oct. '07	'05	Tamara (Yost '05) to <b>Eric Anderson</b> '05, Sept. '08
'00	Taryn (Good '02) to <b>Adam Randall</b> '00, Oct. '07	'03	Abnita (Munankarmy '01) to <b>Ry Larrand-son</b> '03, June '08	'05	Danielle (Schiffler '05) to <b>Adam Benjamin</b> '05, Oct. '08
'00	Julie Fill to <b>Jeff Stueve</b> '00, Sept. '08	'03	Natalie (Willis '02) to <b>Jim Mulrooney</b> '03, Feb. '06.	'05	Tara (Boyer '05) to <b>Andrew Brigham</b> '05, June '08
'01	Amy (Bowen '00) to <b>Michael Halverson</b> '01, June '08	'03	Gretta (Ecker '04) to <b>Brian Eder</b> '04, Sept. '08	'05	Patricia (Canik '05) to <b>Damien Dumon-ceaux</b> '05, July '08
'01	Karine (Nelson '01) to <b>Tom Lewandowski</b> '01, July '07	'03	Lori Van Meeteren to <b>Barry Folkens</b> '04, June '08	'05	Colleen (Niznik '05) to <b>Joseph Federer</b> '05, Dec. '07
'01	Sarah (Welter '00) to <b>Matthew Michels</b> '01, Sept. '08	'04	Maggie Donohue to <b>Ryan Green</b> '04, May '08	'05	Susan Diffley to <b>Nathan Haasken</b> '05, Oct. '08
'01	Michelle (Koch '01) to <b>Mike Rose</b> '01, July '07	'04	Jessie (Bares '04) to <b>Andrew Hachiya</b> '04, Aug. '08	'05	Angela (Haen '05) to <b>Ari Palczewski</b> '05, Oct. '08
'01	Megan (Qvale '02) to Dan Stepaniak '01, Aug. '08.				
'01	Sarah (Sutton '01) to <b>Jeremy Sutton</b> '01, May '08				
'02	Briana Lovering to <b>Ross Benson</b> '02, Aug. '08				



Cyril Paul with his wife, Pam, at the kickoff of his 2,600-mile bike ride from Minnesota to California.

### Paul '59 Keeps on Pedaling

With head down and legs churning, Cyril Paul, 78, was on a 2,600-mile mission this past fall. He rode his bicycle from his home in Bloomington, MN, to California to raise funds for the CSB/SJU Cyril Paul Endowed Scholarship for West Indian Students. Paul wants to increase the fund from \$80,000 to \$250,000 so more students can pursue environmental studies and apply their learning in his native Trinidad and Tobago and other island countries in the region.

As a student, Paul was a popular musician who introduced Calypso music to Central Minnesota and set records on the track team. He continues to front Cyril Paul and the Calypso Monarchs at concerts, wedding receptions and other events across the Twin Cities. The retired educator leads workshops where he discusses culture, peace and justice issues. Paul also serves on the music liturgy team at Joan of Arc Parish in Minneapolis. Along with biking, he runs marathons. For more about Paul, his music and his scholarship, see [www.cyrilpaul.com](http://www.cyrilpaul.com).

### Walsh '61 Traces His Family Ruts

The Old West has long been a part of Bill Walsh's fabric. Last August, he walked in his great-grandfather's cowboy boots. Make that rode in his wagon ruts.

One of 100 outriders on horseback, Walsh rode back 130 years in time last summer to retrace the Ft. Pierre to Deadwood Trail, accompanying a 51-wagon train for the 200-mile, 17-day trip. Tom Callahan, Walsh's great-grandfather, drove wagons on the original route.

Walsh is a long-time resident of Deadwood, SD, noted for its role in the Black Hills gold rush of the 1870s, and for being the place where Wild Bill Hickock was gunned down. Walsh helped revive the community in the 1980s. As owner of The Historic Franklin Hotel, he restored the 1903 landmark and lobbied to bring back legal gambling to the area, a boon to Deadwood businesses. His dedication to local commerce, business development and tourism earned him induction in 2007 in the "historical category" to the South Dakota State Hall of Fame.



Bill Walsh retraced the 200-mile Ft. Pierre to Deadwood trail on horseback last summer.

'05	Patricia (Hobday '01) to <b>Ryan Strack</b> '05, Sept. '08	'07	Maggie (Reisdorf '07) to <b>Ethan McCallum</b> '07, May '07	'93	Leslie (Drahozal '93) & <b>Dan Page</b> '93, girl, Flannery, May '08
'05	Lori to <b>Adam Vander Poel</b> '05, Oct. '08	'07	Vanessa (Denardo '07) to <b>Kevin McNamara</b> '07, Oct. '08	'93	Sandy & <b>Jim Wenner</b> '93, girl, Rose, Jan. '08
'05	Amanda (Scholz '06) to <b>Bob Willenbring</b> '05, July '08	'07	Kellie (McQuade '07) to <b>Todd Perry</b> '07, July '08	'94	Heather (Herron '93) & <b>Don Christenson</b> '94, boy, Peter, May '08
'06	Deborah (Williams '07) to <b>Michael Conrad</b> '06, July '08	'07	Shaina (Crotteau '08) to <b>Richard Raile</b> '07, May '08	'94	Maren (Bassett '96) & <b>William Farniok</b> '94, girl, Avery, June '08
'06	Maria Stark to <b>Jon Daniel</b> '06, Aug. '08	'07	Anna (Scheil '07) to <b>Morgan Skidmore</b> '07, June '00	'94	Joy (Hanson '94) & <b>Chris Fischer</b> '94, girl, Evelyn, Sept. '08
'06	Erin (Saupe '07) to <b>Brian Finley</b> '06, July '08			'94	Leah & <b>Robert Frascone</b> '94, boy, Luca, Aug. '07
'06	Heather (Johnson '07) to <b>Michael Kruk</b> '06, May '08			'94	Kelly (Stockwell '99) & <b>Eric Hanson</b> '94, girl, Emma, Apr. '08
'06	Kelly (Webster '07) to <b>Terrell Ormson</b> '06, July '08	'88	Annmarie & <b>Christopher Kraker</b> '88, boy, John, Mar. '08	'94	Lisa & <b>Dick Heydet</b> '94, girl, Lilly, Aug. '08
'06	Emily (Felton '06) to <b>Samuel Pearson</b> '06, Aug. '08	'88	Lisa & <b>John Nathe</b> '88, girl, Victoria, Jan. '08	'94	Kathy (Keppers '94) & <b>Mark Lutgen</b> '94, twin girl & boy, Abigail & Daniel, July '07
'06	Mary Beth (McCarney '06) to <b>Mike Plucinski</b> '06, Aug. '08	'89	Lisa (Klaphake '91) & <b>Scott Zipp</b> '89, girl, Hannah, July '08	'94	Amy (Hergott '93) & <b>Bart Meath</b> '94, girl, Kate, Apr. '08
'06	Cassie (Benson '05) to <b>Maxwell Smith</b> '06, June '08	'90	Jill & <b>John Boucher</b> '90, boy, James, Sept. '08	'94	Megann & <b>Todd Sauer</b> '94, twin boy and girl, Peter & Margaret, Aug. '08
'06	Megan (Kuhl '06) to <b>Seth Stennes</b> '06, Aug. '08	'91	<b>Donald McCabe</b> '91, girl, Sierra, Jan. '08	'95	Carley & <b>Andy Crook</b> '95, boy, Cutler, May '08
'06	Katie (Mueller '05) to <b>Eric Stinson</b> '06, Aug. '08	'92	Kristen & <b>Gerry Marthaler</b> '92, girl, Gabrielle, Sept. '08	'95	Julie & <b>Jamie Dukowitz</b> '95, girl, Violet, May '08
'07	Jesse (Miller '07) to <b>John Brine</b> '07, Oct. '08	'92	Jennifer & <b>Joe Moore</b> '92, boy, Jack, May '08	'95	Heidi (Wolak '97) & <b>Todd Faber</b> '95, boy, Ian, June '08
'07	Megan (Tiegs '07) to <b>Nick Forliti</b> '07, Sept. '08	'93	Kassi & <b>Pat Grove</b> '93, boy, Brennan, Aug. '08	'95	Shannon & <b>Patrick Glynn</b> '95, boy, Ethan, May '07
'07	Erin (Fogle '07) to <b>Ben Lauer</b> '07, Aug. '08	'93	JoDee & <b>Jeff Haubrich</b> '93, boy, Colton, Oct. '08		
'07	Sarah Ehrlich to <b>Matthew Lovgren</b> '07, Sept. '08	'93	Kate (Halverson '93) & <b>Matt O'Connell</b> '93, girl, Hanorah, May '08		







'58	Michael Muchlinski, son of John '58, Sept. '08	'70	Gerald '79, June '08
'58	Jean Bergquist, sister of Joe Peters '58, May '08	'70	Patricia Ceronsky, mother of Chuck '70, Aug. '08
'58	John Steenhoven '58, brother of Richard '62, May '08	'70	Colleen Deuberry, spouse of William '70, July '08
'58	Edward Wey '58, brother of Rev. Richard Wey '47, Aug. '08	'70	Joseph Dolezal, father of Michael '70, June '08
'58	Evelyn Commers, mother of Larry '58, Oct. '08	'70	William J. Tegeder, father of Rev. Mike '70, Tom '72, and brother of deceased Rev. Vincent, OSB '33, Oct. '08
'59	John Brandl '59, brother of Don '60, Gene '66, and Edward '70, Aug. '08	'70	Rebecca Ann Gurdak , SOTA '70, July '08
'59	Jerry Kollodge '59, brother of Marvin '60 and deceased Don '60, June '08	'71	R. Douglas Burns, brother of Pat '71, Sept. '08
'59	Joseph Roche, brother of Paul '59, June '08	'71	Stanley Ervasti, father of Thomas '71, May '08
'59	Lucy Steiner, sister of Chuck '59, Sept. '08	'71	Katherine Guertin, mother of Stephen '71, June '08
'59	Jane Tielke, spouse of deceased Donald '59, May '08	'71	Vincent O'Brien, father of Dan '71, May '08
'60	Tom Brudos '60, brother of Dick '58, Aug. '08	'71	Robert Millette '71, brother of Brian '61, Oct. '08
'60	Dave Hawkins '60, father of John '85, Oct. '08	'71	Elisabeth Weller, mother of Jon '71, Oct. '08
'60	Sara DeKoster, daughter of Robert Stich '60, Aug. '08	'72	Agnes Agar, mother of Tom '72 and Rev. Tim '86, Oct. '08
'61	Celestine “Sally” Fisher, sister of of Gene Hanauska '61 and Kenny Hanauska '64, Oct. '08	'72	Blanche Butler, mother of Dayrrl '72, Sept. '08
'61	Frank Jelinek '61, brother of Tom '63, May '08	'72	Anna Faber, mother of Jack '72, June '08
'61	Stephanie Marshik, daughter of Richard Marshik '61, Sept. '08	'72	Eugene Filipowski, father of Steve '72, June '08
'62	Evelyn Kammerer, mother of Mike '62, July '08	'72	LeRoy Hokr, father of Tom '72, June '08
'62	John Noelke '62, Mar. '07	'72	Paul LaMarre '72, Oct. '05
'62	Kathleen Basch, spouse of Don '62, Mar. '08	'72	Margaret Mangold, mother of Greg '72, May '08
'62	Paul Basch, brother of Don '62, Aug. '08	'72	Mary Maurer, spouse of deceased John '72, mother of Andrew '03, July '08
'63	Mildred Kohorst, sister of Melvin '63, May '08	'72	Margaret Weingart, mother of Paul '72, Oct. '08
'63	James Kussman, brother of Joel '63 and Roger '64, Aug. '08	'73	Arnie Albrecht '73, July '07
'64	Gerald Korkowski, brother of Clifford '64, Sept. '08	'73	Loretta Albrecht, mother of deceased Arnie '73, Aug. '07
'65	Marcella Spohn, mother of Charlie '65, May '08	'73	Francis Bradash, father of Craig '73, July '08
'65	Angela Wisniewski, mother of Lawrence '65, Oct. '08	'73	Therese McGraw, sister of Charles '73, May '08
'66	Lois Malone, sister of Thomas Fleis- chhacker '66, Aug. '08	'73	Charles A. McGraw, father of Charles J. '73, Dec. '07
'66	Paul Gallagher '66, brother of Tom '63, Sept. '08	'73	John Stack, father of Jack '73, Aug. '08
'66	Howard Gillham, father of Greg '66 and Tom '67, May '08	'74	Warren Brown '74, Aug. '08
'67	Jon Schlough '67, brother of Tom '64 and Dave '69, July '08	'74	Al Mueller, father of Todd '74, Sept. '07
'68	Claire Stangler, mother of Bill '68, Kevin '70, and Mark '72, Aug. '08	'74	David Roth, brother of Greg '74, Aug. '08
'69	Leo Dinndorf, father of Doug '69, June '08	'74	Charles Schoff, father of Michael '74, Oct. '08
'69	James Lord, brother of Mick Lord '69, June '08	'74	Robert Stringer, father of Tom '74, Sept. '08
'69	Lucille Rudolph, mother of Allan '69 and	'75	Christopher Colby, brother of Leigh '75, Mar. '08
		'75	Emma Karnik, mother of Doug '75, Oct. '08
		'75	Dorothy Michel, mother of Bill '75, July '08
		'75	Lyle Smith, father of Duane '75, July '08
		'76	Jeff Baltrusaitis '76, Apr. '08
		'76	Joe Egan '76, May '08

### John Symanitz '26, SJU's Oldest Alumnus

*In our last magazine, we incor-  
rectly attributed a quote to  
John Symanitz's widow, and  
we compounded our error by  
getting her name wrong. We  
sincerely apologize for this  
double error. – The Editor*

John Symanitz '26 passed  
away on February 8, 2008 at  
103. He was SJU's oldest living  
alumnus of record. He was  
well known for his devotion to  
Saint John's. According to Stella  
Symanitz, his widow, “He was a  
perfect gentle-  
man, and he  
was God’s gift  
to me. He was  
so proud of  
Saint John’s.”



'76	William Kelner, father of Michael '76, Sept. '08
'76	Eugene Kujawa, father of Marty '76 and Gregory '76, Sept. '08
'77	Nathan Keith, son of Kent (Mel) '77, Dec. '07
'77	Jane LaFond, mother of Philip '77, Charles '78, Nicholas '79, and Laurence, '86, July '08
'78	Terri Bavolak, sister of Greg Theisen '78, Sept. '08
'79	Andrew Balk, father of Robert '79, Oct. '08
'79	Robert Barbeau, father of deceased James '79, July '08
'79	Jeanne Gonderinger, mother of Bob '79, June '08
'79	Elizabeth Olchefske, sister of Vincent Halm, SOTA '79, Oct. '08
'79	Mary Anne Porter, mother of Bob '79, Sept. '08
'80	Mary Malone, mother of Michael '80, June '08
'80	Oliver Miller, father of Charles '80, Aug. '08
'80	Raymond O'Shaughnessy, father of Mike '80, May '08
'80	Margaret Rosenberger, mother of Steve '80, Sept. '08
'80	Kristine A. Schickling, spouse of Ray '80, Oct. '08

### Cunningham '05 Sits on Top of the World

There are two related obstacles remaining in Nick Cunning-  
ham's quest. One is 29,035 feet tall. The other is the \$30,000-  
\$55,000 budget attached to climbing Mount Everest.

By reaching the top of 16,066-foot high Vinson Massif in  
Antarctica in December, Cunningham has climbed the high-  
est mountain in six of the world's seven continents. He scaled  
Kilimanjaro (19,340 feet) in Africa after studying abroad in  
South Africa in 2004. He took a job with Alaska Mountain  
Guides in summer 2005 and knocked off Mt. McKinley  
(North America; 20,320) in May 2006, Kosciusko (Australia;  
7,310) that December and Elbrus (Europe; 15,771; number  
five of seven) in August 2007. Cunningham has climbed  
Aconcagua (South America; 22,834) three times.

Mount Everest looms ahead in his quest to be a “peak  
bagger” – one who has reached the summit on a selected list  
of mountains such as the Seven Summits. Next fall, back in  
Minnesota, where the highest peak is 2,031 feet, Cunningham  
plans to begin studies for a master's degree at the University of  
Minnesota Carlson School of Business.



Nick Cunningham on Mt. Kilimanjaro in Zanzibar, Africa. Next stop:  
Mt. Everest!

'81	Harlan Boushek, father of Rick '81, Sept. '08	'86	Martha Bogard, mother of Clint '86, July '08	'91	Thomas Lewis, father of George '91, Sept. '08
'81	Robert Calhoun, brother of Don '81, May '08	'86	Rudolph Dvergsten, father of Jeff '86, Aug. '08	'92	Beatrice Callery, mother of Bea Callery, SOT '92, Sept. '08
'81	James Scoggin, the father of Paul '81, Aug. '08	'86	James Janecek, father of Jim '86, Sept. '08	'92	Eugene Scholtes, father of Mark '92, July '08
'81	James Welter, father of Benedict '81, Oct. '08	'86	William O'Connor, father of Tim '86 and Michael '95, May '08	'94	Wayne Schreifels, brother to Adam '94, May '08
'81	Rev. Anthony Ferrero, SOTA '81, Oct. '08	'87	Eugene Huber, father of Chris '87, Oct. '08	'96	Carla Bifaro Richards, mother of Jim '96, May '08
'82	Carol Faber, mother of Robert '82 and Richard '82, Aug. '08	'87	Fransisco Mtingiza, SOTA 1987, Dec. '04	'96	Elizabeth Gotz, mother of Terrence '96, July '08
'82	Dec. Michael Gerdts, father of Dan '82, June '08	'87	Robert Rankin, Jr., father of Rob '87, Aug. '08	'96	Christopher Hammer '96, July '08
'82	Earl Kaufman, father of Marty '82 and deceased Bill '75, Sept. '08	'88	Pericles Dascalos, brother of Alexander '88, Aug. '08	'96	Richard Gorans, father of Matthew '97, Oct. '08
'82	Avis Kling, mother of Larry '82 and Daniel '84, June '08	'88	Marilynn Driste, mother of David '88, Sept. '08	'97	Bernadette Remerowski, mother of Christopher '97, Sept. '08
'82	Walter Kuno, father of Mark '82, Aug. '08	'88	Lee Vetter, father of John '88, May '08	'97	Dorothy Rolling, mother of Kenny '97, Oct. '08
'82	Linda St. Ores, sister of Bob '82, Oct. '08	'88	George Walker, Jr., father of Christopher '88, Oct. '08	'97	Russell Vebelun, father of Rev. Edward Vebelun, OSB, SOTA '99, May '08
'83	Sonja Fagerberg-Diallo, sister of David Fagerberg, SOTA '83, Mar. '08	'89	Janice Anderson, mother of deceased Jim '89, May '08	'99	Cade Herr, 5 month old son of Matt '03, Aug. '08
'83	LuVerne Torke, father of Wayne '83, May '08	'89	James Gainor, father of Geoff '89, Sept. '08	'03	Stephen Ruff, father of Per Jordan '05, Aug. '08
'84	Jim Goodman '84, June '08	'89	H. Robert Glavas, Jr., father of Robert III '89, Sept. '08	'05	George Soukup, father of Jeffrey '05, June '08
'84	Clarence Kowalski, father of Thomas '84, May '08	'89	Kristine Wesley, sister of Kirk Hilbrecht '89, Aug. '08	'06	Roger Chew, father of William '06, May '08
'84	Dolores Lies, mother of Fr. Bill '84, May '08	'89	David Hylla, brother of Scott '89, Aug. '08	'06	James Welton, brother of Nate '06, Oct. '08
'84	Michael Mercer, 14 year old the son of Paul '84, July '08	'89	Leonard Peloquin, father of Thomas Dubi- nin '89, Aug. '08	'06	Wilfred C. Scherer, father of Cathy Stubbs, SOTA '08, June '08
'85	Bob Hayden, brother of Don '85, May '08	'90	Susan Hemstad, mother of Chad Burton '90, May '08		
'85	Paul St. Michel '85, son of Loren '55, brother of John '74, Mark '79, Scott '82, June '08	'91	Richard Heimerl, father of Bruce '91, May '08		



## INSPIRING LIVES

*Editor's note: Br. Dietrich Reinhart, president emeritus, inspired untold numbers of friends, colleagues, former students, CSB and SJU alumni and conferees. Well wishers on Br. Dietrich's Caringbridge Web site formed a virtual global community. Here, we share a selection of edited excerpts from their heartfelt messages.*

During a blizzard over spring break last March, my friend and I were one of the few remaining on campus. I'd just written a story that was published in the Saint Ben's/Saint John's Magazine, and I was eager to get my hands on it. So, at close to midnight, we found ourselves wandering through the Quad, looking for a copy of the magazine. We couldn't find it, but we did notice your office door was open. You were burning the midnight oil in jeans and a sweatshirt, typing away at the computer with classical music playing in the background. Upon wandering in, you greeted our unannounced visit with open arms and chatted with us about how we were preparing for our impending graduation. Oh, and of course you gave us your personal copy of the magazine. — *John O'Sullivan '08, Minneapolis, MN*

You may not remember, but I was a student in your fabulous Tudor and Stuart England class back when I was a sophomore. What I remember most was you taking the time to talk with me outside of class about school, God, and life. — *Gabriel Flynn '90, Eagan, MN*

I will never forget how you helped begin my journey at SJU as my freshman year European History prof. Without SJU, I wouldn't have my successful law practice and my beautiful family. My wife, Anahit, who originally hales from Armenia, was so incredibly impressed by your knowledge of her native land which goes unnoticed by most. — *Scott LaBarre '90, CO*

I attended mass at SJU last January and you served me communion. I immediately felt like I was home again. — *Amy O'Connell, CSB '90*

As I've studied at and worked at several universities, your stewardship of Saint John's has always been the ideal that I've held in mind of what a president should be. Your warmth, humility, intellectual and spiritual leadership has been nothing short of inspiring. — *Mike Gottfried '88 St. Louis, MO*

One evening (when I was a freshman working for the dining service), I was serving a dinner for you and your distinguished guests. While setting down plates and refilling wine glasses I grasped that you were showing one of the first completed pages of the *Saint John's Bible*. I had heard of it but didn't know much about it. After the dinner you stayed later and took the time to tell me about what it was, why Saint John's was doing it, and show me the little things that only those close to it would ever notice. That experience will always be with me. — *Matt Reubendale '06, Minneapolis, MN*

Cardinal Laghi, Frs. Dease and Malone and our band of 20 in the Holy Land prayed for you every day of our pilgrimage at daily Mass. Our last day's Mass was outdoors in the garden of Gethsemane. All of our admiration and love to you from your friends at the University of St. Thomas, — *Gene Frey*

You are, and have been, an inspiration to me. — *John Gagliardi, Football Coach, SJU*

Will and I are changed because we had the privilege of your friendship. — *Carole & Will Coleman, Yuma, Arizona*

What a testament these good wishes and prayers are — of the depth of your influence on so many people. You have guided so many of us monks over the years in untold ways. — *Fr. Mark Thamert, OSB*

Your journal entries are always uplifting. You have built a community through this website and it is wonderful to stay connected and read the journal entries from all corners of the world! — *Colleen Quinlivan, OSB Wilmington, DE*

Your message this morning is truly inspiring and I'm humbled by my own inability to find anything to say that might communicate the message of light and hope, peace and love I would want to send. It seems you have looked "right smack" into the eyes of God who will not take those Godly eyes off you! May you be blessed with courage, strength and a deeper peace than you've ever known. My prayer will not cease. — *Ephrem Hollermann, OSB*

As you know, you have been and will continue to be a model for us monks. Your brothers in Christ — *Abbot Dismas and the monks of St. Procopius Abbey*

The SJB (*Saint John's Bible*) Scriptorium team in Wales are putting their prayers and feelings for you into their daily work page by page. — *Mabel and Donald Jackson*

We all think about you in this part of the world. — *Samir Omerefendic '06, Sarajevo*

Thirty years ago when we were students together in Oxford, your friendship, kindness, and good humour, were foundations for me and many other friends. It is a time I remember with real happiness. — *John Fanshawe Boscawen, Cornwall United Kingdom*

## Leave a Legacy

Jim '59 and Shari Schlosser

*"What counts most in life is what you do for others,"* says Jim. He and Shari raised four children and had full careers — Jim as a lawyer and Shari as a nurse. They loved their work and are now enjoying semiretirement in Arizona. You'll find them several times a month helping at a soup kitchen in downtown Phoenix.

They recently made a bequest to Saint John's, which will be used for scholarship aid. "We want to support Saint John's," says Jim. "It reinforced and deepened the Christian values I was raised by. The education there went far beyond academics and has guided me ever since."

Our community thanks Jim and Shari for caring about what counts by helping young men to receive a Catholic Benedictine education at Saint John's.

For more information on making a planned gift to Saint John's, contact Jim Dwyer '75, director of planned giving, toll free at (800) 635-7303 or [jdwyer@csbsju.edu](mailto:jdwyer@csbsju.edu)







**INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT**

P.O. Box 7222  
Collegeville, MN 56321

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Saint John's University

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

