The Heart of the Matter
Finding New Answers through Biomedical Research
From Lab Rats to Leading Researchers

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

Schnobrich ’01 Wins Bronze

Adviser to Obama

Denis McDonough ’92 named deputy assistant to President Obama for strategic communications for the National Security Council.
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). 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 thruming 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 Woodard ’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.

But Denis McDonough ’92, a senior foreign policy adviser to the Obama campaign, was there. He is 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.

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 witty, 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.”

In Memoriam
Br. Dietrich Reinhart, OSB

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.”

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.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Whalen ’70
Interim President
Whalen is presently principal investor and executive chairman of a cellular telephone development company that he headed for 10 years. Companies including Whalen & Company, an international cellular telephone development company, Whalen founded or co-founded five telecommunication industry ventures, served as a director of Terrestrial Telecom, a publicly traded engineering company. And was executive vice president and member of the board of directors of Teratria, a summer camp in northern Minnesota; The Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota; Anna Marie’s, a shelter for battered women in St. 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 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 on 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.

From Stanfrod to Business Success.
After Whalen earned MBAs and MA degrees from Stanford University in 1986, 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, DC. 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 telecommunications 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.

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 college’s history. SJU and CSB together enrolled 3,965 students, which marks 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 strong. 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 and 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 and 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. Beneficent 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 no one deserved his honor more than you,” wrote Gearff 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 among 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) career record and a 437-119-10 (.781) record at SJU. Gagliardi tried 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.

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 Enterprize 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, Puff Daddy, and Cam’Ron.
Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai Receives Dignitas Humana Award

Wangari Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize, 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 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.

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; Saint Mary’s Abbey in Hanga, Tanzania; Abbey of the Dormition in Taba’a and Jerusalem, Israel; La Abadía de Jesu Cristo Crucificado in Espíritu, Guatemala; and the Manquehue Community in Santiago, Chile.
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.

Chair in Biomedical Sciences

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, Steve Fleng ’82, Matthew Ogl ‘94, Manu Chakravarthy ’95 and Aaron Fling ’82, Matthew Ogle ’94, Manu Chakravarthy ’95 and Aaron Mols 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.

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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.

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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.

“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.

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.

“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 long-term 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.”

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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, CSBSJC 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.

“T’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.

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 ad-vice—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 sci-entist 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 MediCity 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 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.”

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

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.
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 Performance in Health and Disease. The new frontier in heart disease 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 investigatory 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 dystrophies.”

Metzger believes integrative biology and physiology are at the leading edge of discovery of the biomedical sciences in the 21st 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 “shhull 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.”
These interactions, we can not only design the unique biological interactions of nano-themselves,” says Mohs. A major area of technology is the safety of nanoparticles therapies. Targeting them to specific tissues, and more effectively administer cancer drugs, patients,” he says. Using nanotechnology on making cancer therapies more predictable currently a distinguished fellow. The technology center for cancer nanotechnology excellence (ccne), where he is developing optical instrumentation to 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. “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.”

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 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.
"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 remembering those who have been a part of this community.

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 gives 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 – "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 or visit www.saintjohnsabbeycemetery.org

Alumni Served by Abbey Cemetery Expansion

By Josie Stang

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

"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.

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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 remembering 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

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

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THE SAINT JOHN’S CEMETERY

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

1876: 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 crosses.

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.
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 hooded 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 sync 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 repachage (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 beefed 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 St. 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 get a job.

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. The lineup 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!

“It was the honor 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 final. The Canadians had the fastest time. The race wasn’t long enough, to slip past Great Britain in second or run down Canada who claimed their chest just before the start,” Schnobrich said. “Or splash water. We just sat 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, 2.50 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. 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 groundbreaking, 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.
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 1981 and ’82 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 policy advisers for Obama’s presidential strategic communications 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 Iraqi 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 long-time foreign policy aide who is often charged with finding answers to questions Mr. Obama raises.”

(The same article also quoted an anonymous official who said, “It 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. Inconsistent with that was the “right thing to do,” the unnamed official predicted, “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 he was Ken Jones, CSBSJU professor of history, who really got me interested in history, and especially modern U.S. history.” And it was Thorne Running, CSBSJU 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 Reinhard, OSB, for spurring his curiosity in the world beyond St. Thomas School and Stillwater, as well as his exposure of Caggil, Inc., and the other was the late Cleveland Cram, who was a top official in the Central Intelligence Agency before retiring in 1975.

“Cram, 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. Cram was McDonough’s life when he introduced him to his future wife, Karin, 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 a 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 re-election 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, 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 Sen. John F. Kerry, who has just 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. “‘What will become of the place where we pray? 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 our local traditions, our preferred Mass time? ‘What will become of the place where we pray, hear the word of God, receive the Eucharist. Where our children learn the faith; what will become of the place where we 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 participate in the life of today’s parishes.”

“Twinning, reconfiguring, clustering – is understandable for some,” notes Dean Bill Cahoy, dean, Saint John’s School of Theology-Seminary director of ministerial formation and field education.

“People are coming to us asking what to do,” says Cahoy. “They’re asking, ‘How do we maintain mission without losing our identity?’”

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 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,” was published in the spring 2008 issue of the School of Theology-Seminary journal Obsculta, and has been widely requested by readers and church leaders.

“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 obscula@csbsju.edu or call 320.363.3924.
A Giant in Minnesota Politics and Economics

“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 summa 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 Schirer saw potential and challenged me to do so,” Fr. Martin Schirer ’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 seta maters the University of Sydney, 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.

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 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 tubes and beeping monitoring devices and that John would be...

John Brandl was a giant in Minnesota politics and economics, and former dean of the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, passed away last August. 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. The Benedictines at Saint John’s University opened up the world to a kid born and raised in Stearns County, said Brandl in an interview in 2002. He graduated summa 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 Schirer saw potential and challenged me to do so,” Fr. Martin Schirer ’31, OSB, taught economics at Saint John’s University from 1939-79.

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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

“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.)
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 alumni 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.

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.

“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 their research papers in national academic journals. 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.”
JOHNNIE SPORTS

**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 impress 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 an interest in the sport.”

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 speaking adolescents who had psychological or medical issues. I also had the opportunity to be a volunteer, teaching English to 14-year-olds.”

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

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See full story on page 30 of this section.
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 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.

Events Calendar

March 19, 2009
St. Patrick’s Day Celebration
Naples, FL

April 17, 2009
Saint John’s Day: Celebrating Br. Dietrich Reinhardt
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

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!
Johnnies in the Media

The late Jon Hasler ’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 Hasler “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 emotions and culture of Stargazer, Roskerry College, the Abbeys 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 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.

Marecello 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 2003. 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 Biernau ‘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 Walgreens’ Pharmacy, where he worked as a pharmacist. Brian Wojtalewicz ’72, one of the lawyers who handled the case filed against Walgreens, 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 at Saint John’s, were honored by the City of Minneapolis on Dec. 13. Mayor of Minneapolis R.T. Rybak declared Dec. 13 Tonic Sol-Fa Day in the City of Minneapolis on Dec. 13. Mayor of Minneapolis R.T. Rybak declared Dec. 13 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.

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 recording “1-3-5 Breakfast Club” table tent, other freshmen with similar class schedules joined in. For one of the guys, she 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 (McLorin CSB ’79), are closest to Greg ’79 and Beth Lamberton (Engel CSB ’81), Jim ’79 and Nancy Jarvis, Bill ’79 and Janice Hamilton; Tim ’79 and Monica Engel Mars (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 McKeal (CSB ’80) of Council Bluffs, IA and Bob ’79 and Mary Gundertings 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 1998. He hosted the excursion at Pelican Lake this past summer. “It’s always fun,” he says.
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 Hanri ’73 and Greg Carlson ’73, friends from Tommy Hall 3 Long. Freshman year they formed a softball team that included George Lyons ’74, Vincen Canz ’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 Gocker ’74, Steve Conway ’74, honorary members Mike Meyer ’72 and Randy Prenting ’74, and Kevin Hauer ’73, who gained notoriety as The Animal – held 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, Welch 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 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 teams 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, “harking best Hank Fuenlenbacher ’77 and Larry Fosythe ’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 Bødøddly’s Deli in St. Joseph and St. Cloud, Forsythe has remained in the area and continued as the tournament organizer. Scott Frey ’74 has kept the score for 32 of the past 33 years. The second ‘Peg ‘n Keg’ grew from 15 to 32 players, and the venue went from the Frank House study lounge to the Alumni Lounge to the newly-opened Bødøddly’s in 1981. The tournament expanded to its current size of 52 teams of two as it moved across the street to the LaMayette. “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 – St. Bini’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 shared 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 shared time and experiences 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 small,” 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 & Guy’s freshman year and adopted in another friend sophomores. Our gathering these days have picked up a few other Johnnies and Benedicts, 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 decreased 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.
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 as his wagon run. One of 100 outsiders 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 revitalize 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.

Walsh and Callahan couldn’t resist a trip back last summer to retrace the Ft. Pierre to Deadwood Trail, accompanying a 51-wagon train for the 200-mile, 17-day trip.

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 CSBSJU 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.

Cyril Paul with his wife, Pam, at the kickoff of his 2,600-mile bike ride from Minnesota to California.
Muller '71 Emerges as Two-Time National Masters Champion

A basketball and track-and-field star as a college student-athlete, Tim Muller's competitive spirit and athletic prowess are still evident at age 58. Muller successfully defended his national championships and claimed another last August in the USA Masters Track and Field meet in Spokane, WA. He repeated in the spot put in the Men's 55-59 category with a heave of 48.01 feet, taking the gold medal by a foot. He won the discus event with a throw of 5.03 feet, beating the runner-up by nearly 30 feet.

Muller got involved in Masters Track in 1998 when he entered the World Games. OR. He came home with a silver in the shot put, losing only to a former Czech Olympian, a fourth place in the discus, and the knowledge he could compete on a high level.

The 6,650-pound Southard, AZ resident now competes annually in six to eight meets in Arizona, the Southwest regional and the U.S. National's. In 2007, Muller won bronze in the discus and finished seventh in the shot put at the Biennial World Masters Championships in Italy. He concentrates on the shot put and discus in training but also throws the javelin, hammer and weight.

"I have a great passion to compete and have goals and records to shoot for," says Muller. "This year my goal is to break the American record for the discus for my age group. I need about 1.3 feet better than my personal best to reach it."
In our last magazine, we incorrectly 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’s widow passed away February 8, 2008 at 103. He was SJU’s oldest living alumnus of record. He was well known for his devotion to St. John’s. According to Stella Symanitz, his widow, “He was a perfect gentleman, and he was God’s gift to me. He was so proud of John.”

Guides in summer 2005 and knocked off Mt. McKinley in South Africa in 2004. He took a job with Alaska Mountain Guides in summer 2005 and knocked off Mt. McKinley in December, Cunningham has climbed the highest mountain in each of the world’s seven continents. He climbed 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 (20,300 feet) in Alaska in 2006. He climbed Aconcagua (South America, 22,840 feet) 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.

Saint John’s.

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INSPIRING LIVES

Editor’s note: Br. Dietrich Reinhart, president emeritus, inspired untold numbers of friends, colleagues, former students, OSB and SJU alumni and conferees. Well wishes on Br. Dietrich’s Carribridge 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’Dell ‘99, 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

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 unimold ways. – Fr. Mark Thamert, OSB

Your journal entries are always uplifting. You have built a community through this website and it is wonderful to see connected and read the journal entries from all corners of the world! – Colleen Quintiliani, 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 Holler mann, 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 SJF (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. – Sauor Omerony挑 such, OSB

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

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

Leave a Legacy
Jim’59 and Shari Schlosser

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