



# Academic Affairs Awards and Recognition

2021

COLLEGE OF  
Saint Benedict  Saint John's  
UNIVERSITY



# Message from the Provost, Academic Dean and Dean of the Faculty

Because of the ongoing pandemic, we celebrate the accomplishments and milestones of our faculty electronically this year. Although we may not be recognizing these accomplishments in person as we usually do, we celebrate together in spirit, knowing that each of you contributes to our communities in important and unique ways.

Despite the pandemic, faculty and staff have maintained the high standards of our CSB/SJU educational experience. The move to hybrid learning and the block schedule were monumental changes made over a short period of time. Faculty worked over the 2020 summer and throughout the year to revise and adapt every course and refine every assignment to fit into the block and to adapt to the use of technology in and out of the classroom. These significant pedagogical changes enabled us to not only have an in-person educational experience for our students, but to also maintain our educational standards while demonstrating compassion and caring for each other during this pandemic. This has been a Herculean effort by faculty and staff done for the benefit of our students. You gave of yourselves and sacrificed greatly to make this year happen and we thank you!

On top of the changes in teaching and the schedule, we also began implementation of the new Integrations Curriculum. This accomplishment would have been a monumental achievement itself but is even more impressive given the other changes required this academic year. Again, we thank you for your contributions to this important work which will provide our students with a liberal arts curriculum that will meet the needs of our students well into the future.

We ended the academic year with in-person commencement ceremonies, made possible by the extraordinary efforts of staff members. The work of Tanya Gertz, Nancy Dueland, Mary Jo Waggoner, Russ Klein, along with dozens of other staff and volunteers gave our students a celebration to cap their educational accomplishments and to end this challenging year.

We recognize this year has not been “normal” and we know it has not been easy. We cannot thank you enough for your endless effort, support, and dedication to create a meaningful and exceptional educational experience for our students. Thank you.

Richard Ice, Barb May, and Pam Bacon



# Department Chair/Program Director Term Completions

The following individuals have dedicated the last three years as department chairs and program directors.

Jeff Anderson	Jim Crumley	Brian Larkin	Corey Shouse
Bret Benesh	Don Fischer	Sucharita Mukherjee	Beth Wengler
Bruce Campbell	Jean Keller	Jim Read	

## JFS Chair Term Completion – Greg Schroeder

Greg Schroeder's work as JFS vice chair and chair over the past two years, particularly over the past twelve months, has gone beyond the call of duty. He took on the role of chair of the faculty during an institutional crisis, when the pandemic forced CSBISJU off campus. He worked throughout the summer of 2020 on the Scenario Planning team to ensure that classes could safely resume in the fall, striving to increase the transparency of the decision-making process and provide information to the faculty and staff in a timely manner. He acted decisively to make sure that the faculty were represented in the planning process and that faculty governance was consulted and proper governance processes observed.

During his time as JFS vice chair, Greg worked with then-JFS chair Kris Nairn to provide faculty perspective to the Joint Strategic Visioning Committee, and to encourage the boards to provide information to the faculty about the process, continuing that process successfully throughout his time as chair. Greg served on the SJU transitional president search committee, deliberately seeking diverse faculty input at all stages. Over the past year, Greg provided coherent representation of faculty viewpoints to the boards and the Leadership Team. He helped create new and important channels of communication between faculty and administration and between faculty and the boards and provided a clear faculty perspective in the decision-making process at the cabinet level. His leadership has been of enormous importance to the institutions and to the faculty. Throughout this process he was, and continues to be, a consistent and coherent voice in defense of the liberal arts mission of the institutions.

Greg has been a diplomatic, clear-thinking, and tireless leader of the faculty during a precarious time in our institutions' histories. We thank him for this extraordinary service to the faculty.



# Years of Service

## 10 Years of Service

Amelia Cheever  
Sunil Chetty  
Kristen Colberg  
Shawn Colberg  
Alexa Evenson  
Georgia Hogenson  
Janean Kleist  
Deborah Pembleton  
Jennifer Peterson  
Anne Sinko

## 20 Years of Service

David Arnott  
Dana Drazenovich  
Don Fischer  
Bob Hesse  
Mary Jepperson  
Kelly Kraemer  
Janna LaFountaine  
Ed McIntee  
Erin Szabo

## 35 Years of Service

Brian Johnson  
O. Nicholas Raths  
Stephen Stelzner

## 40 Years of Service

LuAnn Reif  
Steve Saupe  
Michael Tangredi  
Ed Turley

## 15 Years of Service

Emily Esch  
Marietta Franulic  
Mark Glen  
Jessica Harkins  
Matthew Harkins  
Robert Kachelski  
Jean Lavigne  
Julie Lynch  
Margrette Newhouse  
Tonya Schmidt  
Lynn Schnettler

## 25 Years of Service

Jeff Kamakahi  
Jean Keller  
Bill Lamberts  
Chris Schaller

## 45 Years of Service

Ken Jones

## 30 Years of Service

Tony Cunningham  
Aubrey Immelman  
Phil Kronebusch



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## Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor



Ana Conboy



Diana Fenton



Madeleine Israelson



Amanda Jantzer



Demelza Larson



Elisheva Perelman



## Promotion to Professor



Emily Esch



Barb May



Ed McIntee



Allison Spenader



Beth Wengler



# Becoming Community Practitioners and Advanced Practitioners

Listed below are faculty members who have received their Becoming Community Practitioner Certificates. Faculty who have attended five or more Becoming Community Professional Development Workshops this past academic year have earned the Becoming Community Practitioner certificate.

**Congratulations and thank you for your dedication and support of this initiative.**

## Practitioner Certificate Recipients

Carie Braun

Ted Gordon

Sucharita Mukherjee

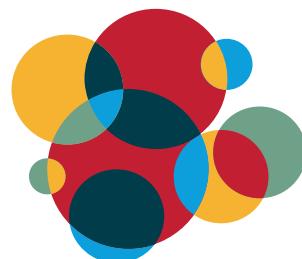
Christi Siver

Vincent Smiles

Beth Wengler

**Becoming  
Community**

Pursuing transformative inclusion with  
support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation





## Faculty Search Advocates

We have completed the third year of the search advocate program at CSB/SJU. A search advocate is a member of a search committee who helps colleagues to avoid unconscious, unintentional biases, and who assists committees with efforts to include diversity, inclusion, and equity in its hiring processes and decisions. All our search advocates have completed training to prepare them for this important service to the institutions.

Thank you to the following faculty search advocates who have served on one or more search committees during the 2020-2021 school year:

Sunil Chetty

Jessica Harkins

Ed McIntee

Shane Miller

Deborah Pembleton

Terri Rodriguez

Christi Siver



## John and Lois Welshons Professorship of English

The John and Lois Welshons Professorship of English recognizes the talents of an outstanding English faculty member, enabling its recipient to engage in significant scholarship, pedagogy, or service. The next John and Lois Welshons Professorship of English recipient is Dr. Matthew Harkins.



### Dr. Matthew Harkins

Dr. Matthew Harkins has been on our faculty since 2006. His research interests focus on English literature, including Shakespeare and English metaphysical poet Andrew Marvell. He has published and presented his scholarly work widely. Matt is a talented and engaging teacher who offers courses in Shakespeare, Milton, the English Renaissance, Irish literature, and essay writing. Matt is an active participant in faculty service, serving on several faculty governance committees and the faculty senate. He has also served as the English Department chair.

Matt has served as the Director for the Literary Arts Institute. Under his leadership LAI has brought nationally and internationally known writers and poets to our campuses for lectures, workshops, and residencies. One particular program, the Manitou Fellows, enables our students to work closely with renowned writers to develop their own creative writing projects through residencies, which Matt has continued and developed.



## Academic Advisor Award

The Academic Advisor of the Year Award was established in 1985. It is awarded to two faculty and/ or professional advisors who have distinctly contributed to the advising program, as well as to individual student development and growth throughout the academic year. Faculty and professional advisors at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University are eligible for this award. The 2021 Advising Award recipients are: Jodi Berndt and Boz Bostrom.



### Jodi Berndt

Jodi was nominated by many students who all remarked on her teaching and advising. The qualities that make her successful in the classroom also carry over to her advising. One nominator remarked, "She is very organized, consistent, and always available to help with questions. She always answers her emails promptly...she gives you recommendations to help with future events and specific classes I may need. She is very knowledgeable about my specific path for my major. She also takes the time to understand our own specific plans and what we want to do later in life." Another stated, "She is very engaged in my academic standings and requirements for graduation. She also had great resources and insightful advice for me when choosing classes and internships. She is very organized and not only a great professor and advisor, but also a great human being." And yet another said, "She challenges students but still supports us when needed. She is very accessible and answers quickly to emails."

Congratulations Jodi!



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## Academic Advisor Award



### Boz Bostrom

In describing Boz's impact on his students one nominator said, "I consider Boz one of the primary reasons why so many CSB/SJU accounting students are some of the strongest leaders to graduate from CSB/SJU. Boz's connections and encouragement inside and outside of the classroom help students succeed. Boz is willing to do anything to help his students, which makes him not only an excellent educator, but a trusted mentor for many." Another said, "Boz is a really integral part of the community which gives him many connections both at St. John's and out in the real world. He uses these many connections to help foster educational growth within the classroom, but also professional growth." Congratulations Boz!



## The Sister Linda Kulzer Gender Educator Award

The Gender Education Development Award was established in 2008 and was later renamed in honor of Sister Linda Kulzer, OSB. This award recognizes a member of the CSB and SJU faculty who has contributed to students' gender education through curricular leadership, courses taught, scholarship, and/or mentoring students independent of normal classroom teaching. Sister Linda, CSB's Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1977-85 and a Professor Emerita of Education, was a pioneer in the colleges' earliest efforts to integrate gender into the curriculum. The 2021 Sister Linda Kulzer Gender Educator Award recipient is Dr. Emily Paup.



### Emily Paup

Dr. Emily Paup has contributed to gender education in many rich ways during her years here at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University. Paup is inspiring with her timely facilitation of campus-wide dialogue on a range of emerging and urgent gender topics on campus. She planned and participated in a series of panel discussions including: "Gender and the Supreme Court," "Politics is a Feminist Issue", and "Protest, Racial Justice, and the language of (Dis)Order", facilitated a "civil discourse" workshop with CSB Resident Advisors, after an incident in the residence halls. She helped lead the planning for a series of CSB events that celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the 19th amendment and her COMM 384C students developed a "Here Because of Her" video series of trailblazing women, which was subsequently integrated into the Gender Studies Instagram site (revitalized under her guidance). Paup's curricular leadership on the Integrations Curriculum particularly with regard to the CSDI and CSDS courses is significant as is her revisioning and re-envisioning of gender themed courses in the Communication Department. These courses all integrate an intersectional gender analysis as she and her students address questions such as (presidential) politics, citizenship, censorship, rhetoric, and/or representation. Her timely and public facing scholarship regarding gender and politics, which includes both historical and contemporary engagements is noteworthy. Dr. Paup has found numerous ways to enrich the gender education of all us at CSB/SJU and we are all better educated and better off because of it. Congratulation Emily!



# Linda Mealey Faculty/Student Collaborative Research and Creativity Award

The Teacher/Scholar Award was established in 2000 and is given annually to a faculty member who exemplifies demonstrated excellence in scholarship as well as teaching, conducts student/faculty collaborative research or creative work, and excels in the mentoring of students. In 2004, following the untimely death of Dr. Linda Mealey, Professor of Psychology and 2002 recipient of the award, it was re-named the Linda Mealey Faculty/Student Collaborative Research and Creativity Award in her honor. Linda believed that “learning is fun” and that simple pleasure was the driving force behind her considerable efforts to involve students in research. The 2021 S. Linda Mealey Faculty/Student Collaborative Research and Creativity Award recipient is Dr. Mary Stenson.



**Mary Stenson**

In her eleven years at CSB/SJU, Dr. Stenson (Associate Professor of Exercise Science and Sports Science and Co-Director of Undergraduate Research) has mentored over 80 individual and group research projects—41 of which have been presented at national or regional conferences and 8 of which have won the Northland Chapter of American College of Sports Medicine Outstanding Undergraduate Research Awards. Her support of student research extends well beyond the classroom. As Co-Director of Undergraduate Research, Dr. Stenson helped develop the Emerging Scholars Program which pairs underrepresented first-year students with faculty conducting undergraduate research. One student writes, ‘It was lost on me at times, but Professor Stenson was using her time, while a professor, a mentor, and a mom to make sure our work crossed the finish line. Through countless edits, drafts, and revisions that included significant changes, Professor Stenson willed us not only to publication but to work I am proud to have produced...[she] similarly represents everything it means to be a “beloved mentor.”’ Mary’s passion and care for student development and tireless commitment makes her so deserving of the 2021 S. Linda Mealey Faculty/Student Collaborative Research and Creativity Award. Congratulations Mary!



## Jennifer Galovich Service Award

The Jennifer Galovich Service Award recognizes outstanding faculty service to CSB/SJU. The Service Award was established in 2020 and is given annually to a faculty member who exemplifies demonstrated excellence in service to the institutions at both the departmental and institutional level. The award was named in honor of Dr. Jennifer Galovich, Professor Emerita of Mathematics, who demonstrated strong and exemplary service to the institutions during her 28-year career. In addition to her service to the mathematics department, she served as JFA chair and also served on numerous faculty governance committees. Her service as chair of the Faculty Handbook Committee is legendary. The 2021 Jennifer Galovich Service Award recipient is Professor Ken Jones.



### Ken Jones

Prof. Ken Jones has served CSB/SJU in many capacities since his arrival in 1976. Some of his roles have been obvious, others less so, but collectively they represent an enormous and consistent contribution to his colleagues, his students, and the life of our community. Perhaps Ken's most enduring and far-reaching contribution has been his service

as the Director of the Learning Enhancement Service from 1997-2007 and 2012-2020. Ken won two important grants for our institutions, the Teagle grant for training faculty and staff in assessment, and the Fruth Family Foundation Grant, "Promotion of Blended Learning at CSB/SJU." Ken has made numerous presentations to professional groups, especially regarding pedagogy and faculty development. He has represented CSB/SJU as an external evaluator of History Departments, General Education Curricula, and Faculty Development Programs at many other institutions. As Assistant Dean or as Director, Ken oversaw the Common Curriculum from 2007-2015. In this role, Ken mentored FYS faculty, including many who did not have formal ties to any department, and he worked diligently to create a supportive community of FYS instructors. In the transition to the new curriculum, Ken was a member of the Implementation of the Integrations Curriculum Committee 2018-19 and Chair of the Skills Subcommittee of the IICC. Ken served as Chair of the History department three times early in his career and



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served as Departmental Assessment Coordinator from 2001-2011. He served as Chair of the St. John's Faculty Assembly and ex officio member of the St. John's Board of Regents. For five years, he served on the Intercultural Directions Council. Since 1994, he has served as the SJU Faculty Athletic Representative to the MIAC and NCAA, and from 2000-2003, he served as president of the MIAC. Ken has also been part of numerous Athletic Department searches over the years. Both on campus and off, Ken has functioned in the important role of public historian. His presentations include the history of CSB/SJU, for example, his Martin Luther King Day presentation, "Black Students at CSB/SJU in the 1960s" and presentations to the Whitney Center in St. Cloud. In October 2019, at the inaugural event of the History Department's Tegeder-Berg Society, Ken gave a lecture on the history of presidential impeachment in the U.S. to a large audience of students and alumnae/alumni in Minneapolis.

Above everything stands Ken's pedagogical training and mentoring of faculty. His generosity and openness have helped an entire generation of faculty at CSB/SJU become better and more committed teachers. Congratulations, Ken, and thank you for your exemplary service to our community.



## Sister Mary Grell/Robert Spaeth Teacher of Distinction Award

Sister Mary Grell served students on both campuses for more than 35 years with intelligence, skill, dedication, and genuine affection. She graduated from the College of Saint Benedict in 1933 with a baccalaureate degree in Botany and Chemistry. She did research in Germany on a Fulbright Grant in the 1950s and continued to do productive research on cells during the rest of her career here and at St. Anselm's College in New Hampshire. Following further study in biology and cytogenetics at St. Louis University and Fordham, she returned to our campus and began her remarkable teaching career. She served as president of the college from 1963 to 1968.

Bob Spaeth was many things to many people, but in all things he was a teacher, first at Saint John's College, Annapolis, where he taught the full range of the Great Books, and then, from 1979 until his death in 1994, here at Saint John's in Collegeville, in the departments of Philosophy and Mathematics. He also taught in the Christian Humanism program, as well as Senior Seminar and First Year Symposium, and was Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1979 through 1988. Both as dean and through his own teaching, Bob sought to inspire our learning community and was dedicated to the quality of our teaching faculty.

We celebrate the difference Sister Mary Grell and Bob Spaeth made at CSB/SJU through our recognition each year of a member of our faculty who represents the best of teaching and learning here at our colleges.

The 2021 Sister Mary Grell/Robert Spaeth Teacher of Distinction Award recipient is Dr. Ana Conboy.



## Ana Conboy

Describing her teaching as a vocation, Dr. Conboy (Assistant Professor of French) writes, ‘Teaching exists in a dynamic equilibrium with past, present, and future. At the heart of this equilibrium lies self-reflection, a committed engagement towards improvement and transformation.’ Dr. Conboy’s commitment to innovative pedagogy and outstanding teaching extends beyond the classroom and includes her frequent publications and presentations in the field. These include ‘Mindfulness in Study Abroad: Experiential Learning towards Intercultural Communicative Competence,’ ‘The Host as Guest: Incorporation of Benedictine Hallmarks in the French Literature Classroom,’ and ‘Where Learning Begins: Lessons from a Pandemic.’ One student writes, ‘Through her guidance, I became a French Major, I decided on my future career as a teacher, I made lifelong memories as a student in her study abroad group, I gained valuable working experience, and she gave me the chance to do work that I am still proud of.’ She is a worthy recipient of the 2021 Sister Mary Grell/Robert Spaeth Teacher of Distinction Award. Congratulations Ana!



## Announcement of Catholic Benedictine Educator Award

There will be a new award presented annually at the Academic Affairs Awards ceremony. The Catholic Benedictine Educator Award will be awarded annually at the Academic Affairs Awards ceremony beginning Spring 2022. This award sponsored by the Benedictine Institute of Saint John's University and the College of Saint Benedict Koch Chair in Catholic Thought and Culture encourages CSB/SJU faculty (part and full time) to creatively engage and foster understanding of Benedictine or other expressions of the Catholic intellectual tradition when teaching their academic discipline. Faculty members whose academic discipline lies outside of theology are eligible for this award. The strongest nominees will find ways to engage both the Catholic intellectual and Benedictine traditions.

Watch for more information regarding this award in fall 2021.



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## Retirements



### Marcie Givens

Dr. Marcie Givens arrived at the College of Saint Benedict/ Saint John's University in January 2002. Marcie is loved by everyone in the music department for her ready smile, quick wit, diplomacy and wisdom. She is a woman of deep Christian faith who sees her work at CSB/SJU as a vocation where she demonstrates a profound respect for vocal artistry and models professionalism for her students, both in her teaching and singing. Marcie truly lives the Benedictine values, especially Awareness of God, Hospitality, Listening and Dignity of Work. In her 19 years, she has been an active and devoted colleague within the department. We wish her every happiness as she embarks on a new journey with her husband Hugh in Missouri. Thank you, Marcie, for your service and dedication to the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University!



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## Retirements



### Ellen Jensen

During her 31 years at CSB/SJU Dr. Ellen Jensen has been known by colleagues as a kind and patient teacher and mentor to new faculty. One colleague recalled, “she played a huge role in my own development as an instructor. She was the perfect partner for a bumbling beginner: finding positive things to say even when things didn’t go so well, kind-hearted to a fault, smart as the proverbial whip but so much the “regular person” outside of the lab and classroom.” Another shared “Ellen somehow became the liaison between the biology department and, seemingly, everyone else. She was the go-between for us and Environmental Health and Safety, kept us apprised of what Physical Plant was going to do, made the arrangements for repairs when a fume hood or the deionized-water system went ‘on the blink’ and much more.” In addition, she generously shared her excellent baking talents with her department over the years. Ellen, thank you for your many years of dedication and service to the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University!



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## Retirements



### Janean Kleist

Dr. Janean Kleist's work at the College of Saint Benedict/ Saint John's University over the past 10 years was guided by her focus on student success. Following many years in the private sector she brought her experience to CSB/SJU and was dedicated to helping her students succeed. Whether it was helping students with resumes, hosting late night office hours, or meeting one-on-one to ensure everyone understood the material, Janean went above and beyond. A colleague stated, "Janean was not only an outstanding professor; she was also an excellent colleague. She was always willing to collaborate on coursework and working with her pushed everyone in our department to become better teachers. Never afraid to challenge the status quo, Janean was very open to brainstorming new ideas to help all students." Janean, thank you for your dedication and service to the College of Saint Benedict/ Saint John's University!



## Retirements



### John Miller

Professor John Miller earned a B.A. of Mathematics & Physics from SJU to return and earn an additional degree in Mathematics/ Computer Science 15 years later. In true Johnnie fashion John has dedicated his life to teaching and supporting students and colleagues as a kind and supportive role model and mentor. Colleagues speak fondly of John and his influence on their decisions to teach here and his genuine hospitality in mentoring them. One stated, "When I interviewed here..., I vividly remember the campus tours that John gave me being the highlight of my interview. They played a large part in me wanting to be here." Another said, "Upon returning as faculty, John was incredibly warm, welcoming and helpful even though I was in another department. I'm always impressed that John attends many of the CSCI student's thesis defenses and senior seminar talks. He is always present for all students, willing to help them if asked." Yet another shared, "I will miss our ongoing chats after teaching different sections of our intro course, CSCI-130. We'd discuss what went well and what didn't as if we're both teaching the course for the first time although we both taught it a million times before!" John thank you for 39 years of service and dedication to CSB/SJU!



## Retirements



### Lynn Schnettler

Lynn Schnettler has been a valued member of the CSB/SJU Education Department since 1997. During her early years in the department, she served as a student teacher supervisor. In 2005, her responsibilities expanded to include teaching both Common Curriculum and Education courses. The variety of classes, including First-Year Seminar, Human Growth and Development, Teaching in a Diverse World, Clinical Experience: K-6, and Elementary Social Studies Pedagogy, illustrate both the breadth of her expertise and her willingness to step up when a need arises. Students appreciated Lynn's sensitivity, kindness, and commitment. According to one former student, "Lynn always prioritized the well-being and experiences of her students over all else and helped them become more effective writers, more inclusive thinkers, and better people." Lynn will be missed for many reasons. She is a supportive colleague whose spirit of generosity and commitment to equity have positively impacted the department in many ways. However, her desire to avoid the limelight means that most people will never know of her impact. While Lynn's contributions to the Education Department and the greater campus community cannot be adequately captured here, we thank her for her years of tireless service to students and colleagues. Thank you, Lynn, for your service and dedication to CSB/SJU!



## Retirements



### David Zoeller

Professor David Zoeller arrived on these campuses in 1988 teaching Accounting and Finance and receiving tenure in 1994. Shortly after, Dave left to venture into the business world and to our benefit returned to CSB/SJU in 2007 as an adjunct teaching in both Accounting & Finance and Global Business Leadership. A colleague wrote, “Dave brings a dry wit and an unflappable edge to everything he does, from teaching in the classroom, to interacting with his fellow faculty, to participating in department meetings. He is a straight shooter who isn’t afraid to tell it like it is. An email from Dave is bound to be both informative and entertaining. Students always enjoyed Dave’s classes, as they were relaxed and filled with stories from his vast real-world experience. Dave is also one of few, if not the only, CSB/SJU faculty member to obtain tenure then leave to re-enter the business world, and then return as an adjunct to teach again. But that personifies Dave: unorthodox! And in the end, Dave’s students benefited tremendously from learning how he achieved fantastic success in business. Life will be a little less calm without Dave.” Thank you, Dave, for your service and dedication to the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University!



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## Retirements



### Professor Emerita, Jayne Byrne

Jayne Byrne formally began her relationship with the Nutrition department at CSB/SJU in 1987. It was at this time that she became the clinical site coordinator at St. Cloud Hospital for dietetics students from CSB/SJU. In the spring of 1992, she taught a Therapeutic Nutrition course at CSB/SJU, and in 1994 to our benefit she began a full-time teaching appointment as an Assistant Professor. Jayne Byrne is a critical and deep thinker with visionary qualities. As department chair for 15 years Jayne helped the department to grow significantly in the number of majors and minors we have, as well as developed the Nutrition major into a program that is well known and respected widely. She guided the program through a self-study by the dietetics accrediting body, a reorganization of the curriculum, the creation of numerous new courses, the mentoring of four new faculty and hundreds of students, and a renovation of the food lab, to name a few of her many accomplishments. Her colleagues enthusiastically note her tremendous service to her students, colleagues, department, profession, faculty committees, the CSB/SJU community and beyond. She is described as a supportive and helpful mentor who brings a level-headed and practical approach to conversations. Students have thrived under her direction and value their time in her classes. Thank you, Jayne, for your dedication and service to College of St. Benedict and St. John's University!



## Retirements



### Professor Emeritus, William Cahoy

Bill Cahoy has made his mark on the School of Theology and Seminary as a skilled administrator and outstanding teacher. Bill came to the SOT/Sem in 1990 from Saint Mary's University in Winona where he had taught for nine years after completing his PhD studies at Yale University. Bill

has been a core member of our systematics faculty for the past three decades where his course in Christology has won rave reviews from students. Bill's interest in philosophical and historical theology has made him an insightful conversation partner on a wide-range of theological and ecclesial issues. His influence on students who have gone on to further PhD studies is well-known. His readiness to engage in topics associated with paideia reveals immediately his attentiveness to the "so-what" of theological education. Bill's passion for theological education prepared him well for administration in the SOT/Sem. Bill served as Dean of the SOT/Sem from 1999 to 2015. His record of distinguished service in this role was recognized by Saint John's University when he was named Dean Emeritus in 2016. Bill's participation in the administration of theological education is noteworthy. He is a frequent participant in projects of In-Trust, the Association of Theological Schools, and the Lilly Endowment. Bill has been a remarkable and beloved colleague. His keen mind, ready wit, and love of conversation have brought vibrancy and depth to our faculty as a community of scholars. Thank you, Bill, for your dedication and service to St. John's University and the School of Theology!



## Retirements



### Professor Emeritus, Tom Kirkman

Tom Kirkman has been a vital part of the CSB/SJU physics department for 39 years. While Tom's intelligence and sense of humor are legendary to students and faculty, he has also been quick to join in discussions that brighten the day of everyone involved. While Tom can talk about anything, his professional focus has been on teaching. Tom works to make the most difficult concepts understandable to all students. Tom's breadth of knowledge shows in his teaching as well; he has taught most of the classes in the physics curriculum. When he arrived at CSB/SJU, Tom shifted his research focus from particle physics to astronomy. Much of his recent research has been on an eclipsing Cepheid star, about which he gave a press conference at the AAS meeting in 2017. He also has been active in the scholarship of teaching through his statistical analysis of data from STEM courses. Tom also involved many students in research on his star, and he did senior thesis projects with over 40 students. Those projects ranged from the flight of Frisbees, to the quantum Hall effect, to speaker design. Tom is a visionary who played a key role in connecting CSB/SJU to the early internet, and he developed online statistical tools used here and across the world. Tom has been a wonderful teacher, colleague, and mentor. Thank you Tom, for your service to the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University!



## Retirements



### Professor Emerita, Janna LaFountaine

For 20 years, Professor Janna LaFountaine's passion for youth sports and coaching, commitment to equity and inclusion, and relentless energy and optimism have been driving forces in the evolution of the Exercise Science and Sport Studies Department. Janna led the Coaching Certificate program for many years, taught a variety of coaching related courses, and mentored numerous students in the field of coaching through internship and practicum experiences. In the classroom, Janna frequently challenged students to explore the intersection of culture, gender, and sport, and to become agents of change through the promotion of equity and inclusion, fair play, and character development in sport. Janna also shared her passion for culture and sport with students by leading the London and Roman-Greco semester-long study abroad programs and coordinating the student exchange program with Coventry University, UK. As a scholar, Janna published several papers and co-authored a book chapter that examined issues related to gender, equity, and inclusion in sport and exercise science. In recognition of her dedication to coaching girls' and women's sports and her steadfast commitment to gender equity, Janna received the 2013 Breaking Barriers Award presented by the National Girls and Women in Sports Foundation. Thank you, Janna, for your years of service and dedication to the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University!



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## Retirements



### Professor Emerita, Sheila Nelson

For over 25 years, Dr. Nelson has served the Sociology Department with passion and distinction. In 2019, she received the Mother Benedicta Riepp Award which recognized her as “a lay woman who exemplifies Benedictine and Gospel values in her daily life.” Themes of justice, inclusivity, and advocacy permeated her teaching, research, and service. Gender issues have been a focus for her. She examined Catholic views on gender and sexuality as well as aspects of gender identity. She was a recipient the Sister Linda Kulzer Gender Education Award and supported the Lavender Graduation and LGBTQ initiatives. Having investigated faith-based Liberal Arts education, she also has been recognized as staunch advocate for student internships, service learning, and student engagement. For many years she took students to Chicago to immerse them into such issues as inequality, poverty, and social action. Leading a Greco-Roman study abroad program provided her with a different type of urban experience. Sheila also survived stints of hazardous duty as Sociology Department Chair. She was active in both community and professional service. Sheila Nelson is a wonderful colleague and has always fostered open dialogue. She has served the CSB/SJU community well and will be dearly missed as a friend and exemplar. Thank you, Sheila, for your years of service and dedication to the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University!



## Retirements



### Professor Emerita, LuAnn Reif

In her 39 years at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University, LuAnn Reif integrated her enthusiasm and love of teaching into every learning experience she created. She believed in the importance of contextual learning and worked to encourage students as they participated in lab experiences, simulation and immersion experiences. She was on the forefront of the development of the nursing department's South Africa study abroad program has been the lead in the development and implementation of the Dominican Republic immersion experience. LuAnn has devoted her time and expertise to this service-education partnership to foster student learning and to improve the health of the local community. Her broad knowledge and interest in public health has supported her scholarship. She has many publications and presentations on topics such as access to medical records, collaboration, home visiting, cultural competence, and preparation of nursing students for the public health nursing role. Her interest in cultural competence supported the development of an instrument to measure cultural competence in nursing students and practicing nurses. This instrument has been used at both the college and community level to understand the level of perceived competence students and nurses identify when caring for diverse populations. LuAnn had a strong commitment to leadership and service to CSB/SJU and the community. The highlights of her awards include NCAA fellow as a faculty athletic representative, MIAC distinguished service award, and in 2016, she received the Commissioner's Award for Distinguished Services in Community Health Services. Highlights of her academic service include serving as chair of the nursing department, FDRC member, Master Planning Committee member, and leadership on the women's walk committee. She has provided leadership for the local public health department, school system, cultural support group, American Red Cross, and American Cancer Society. LuAnn gives her time and shares her expertise to improve the health and resources in the local community. Thank you, LuAnn, for your many years of service to CSB/SJU!



## Retirements



### Professor Emeritus, Thomas Sibley

Dr. Tom Sibley has been an exceptional teacher, scholar, and citizen of CSBSJU for 37 years. He is well-known for his service, including being chair of Mathematics, chair of the JFA, serving on numerous committees, and being a frequent, thoughtful voice on all important matters at CSBSJU. He is a teacher at heart, having taught at three liberal arts colleges in the U.S. and two schools in Africa. He was endlessly creative at creating physical manipulatives to help his students understand the abstract world of mathematics kinesthetically. His output as a researcher boggles the mind, as he has published three books, 13 peer-reviewed articles on mathematics (which is more than 85% of mathematics professors), and roughly 30 additional articles on mathematics and the teaching of mathematics. Amazingly, he has worked with roughly 80 different undergraduates on research projects during his time at CSBSJU. Somehow, he also found time to audit over 40 classes at CSBSJU, which is further evidence that he embodies the value of lifelong learning. We thank him for his mentorship, the care he put into his craft, and for his kindness and generosity. Thank you, Tom, for your service and dedication to CSBSJU!



## Retirements



### Professor Emeritus, Stephen Stelzner

For 35 years, Dr. Stephen Stelzner has served the students, faculty, and community of the College of St. Benedict/ Saint John's University. He has taught a wide variety of courses in the Psychology Department, including Introduction to Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Community Psychology, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, and Exercise & Sport Psychology. He has won the Sister Mary Grell Teacher of Distinction Award, the Academic Advisor of the Year Award, and the Civic Engagement Steward Award from Minnesota Campus Compact. A prolific scholar, Steve has co-authored one book and 11 scholarly articles and chapters in edited volumes. His most important work is on a model for the ecology of leadership that he developed with Dr. Richard Wielkiewicz and Dr. Kathy Allen. In addition to his service on numerous departmental and standing faculty committees, he served as Director of Undergraduate Research, Chair of the Curricular Strategic Planning Committee, and Director of the Post-Tenure Program. A mentor to many students, Steve has supervised 12 honors theses and has been a reader or supervisor for over 50 other honors theses or senior theses. In addition, Steve has been a steadfast supporter of women's sports at CSB. He served two years as the assistant CSB Soccer Coach and was the PA announcer at over 300 CSB basketball games from 1986 to 2016. Thank you, Steve for your many years of passionate commitment to CSB/SJU!



## Retirements



### Professor Emeritus, Axel Theimer

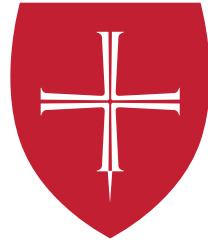
Dr. Axel Theimer leaves CSB/SJU having exponentially enriched the music department and the musical life of our community for fifty-two years. Axel has ignited a passion for choral singing in generations of students, fostering excellence and creating opportunities for lifelong connections and love for music. He conducted the CSB/SJU Chamber Choir and the SJU Men's Chorus and has taught voice, diction, choral conducting and vocal pedagogy. He founded the Kantorei a cappella choir, which includes many CSB-SJU alumnae and co-founded the National Catholic Youth Choir. Many alumnae of NCYC have subsequently attended CSB/SJU. He is on the faculty and is executive director of the VoiceCare Network, a national institute promoting vocal health. The choral touring program has built a community of fans and increased our colleges' visibility both in the US and abroad. Students have come to CSB/SJU because of the choir program, even if they don't intend to be music majors. Axel is the Energizer Bunny in a conductor's tails. His has been the last light on in the SJU music building for decades. He has been a generous mentor to students and vital colleague in the music department. His choirs are renowned for a warm, natural and emotionally connected sound. From coaching soccer in his early years to getting to SJU early on Saturday mornings in order to direct the Men's Chorus at hundreds of home football games, his influence on community life at CSB/SJU has been immeasurable. Among his many awards, Axel received the Choir Director of the Year, the F. Melius Christiansen Lifetime Achievement from Minnesota Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and this spring, was awarded the SJU President's Medal by Interim President Eugene McAllister at the annual St. John's Day ceremony. Thank you, Axel for your service and dedication to CSB/SJU!



# Academic Affairs Awards and Recognition

2021

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