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Connecting Parents to the College Community

Spring 2006

St. Norbert College

De Pere, Wisconsin

At a Glance

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May 18-19, 2006

Editors

Kristen Buettner '07
 ALUMNI AND PARENT
 RELATIONS INTERN

Judy Turba '76
 DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AND
 PARENT RELATIONS

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Hello Parents and Guardians,

While it had to be the coldest weekend of the winter, Junior Knights and Days '06 was a wonderful event. Eleven faculty members shared their expertise and enthusiasm, parents danced the night away, Fr. Jim offered a beautiful liturgy, the hypnotist entertained us in ways we never imagined and Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila again shared his thoughts about faith, family and football. Most importantly, parents/guardians were able to spend some precious time with their sons and daughters. What a fabulous weekend! As one parent shared, "We thoroughly enjoyed the weekend. It far exceeded our expectations. I'm so glad we took part in it." Parents of current sophomores, we sure hope to see you next year: February 16-18, 2007.

We are excited to inform you that we now have the capability of sending e-newsletters/broadcasts to you in an effort to share information in a timely manner. In order for you to receive them, we need your current e-mail address. If you're not certain we have it, or would like to update your contact information, you may do so by completing the on-line form at www.snc.edu/parents/contacts_form.html. We hope to begin communicating with you via the internet next year—keeping the summer parent newsletter in a hard copy form, but utilizing the e-broadcast technology after that.

Also, our second annual Alumni College will be held on May 18 and 19. A number of parents attended last year and shared

rave reviews about the classes as well as the monastic beer-tasting session. So many of you mentioned at the last Junior Knights and Days how much you enjoyed learning, especially from our exceptional professors. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience St. Norbert College yourself. For more information go to www.snc.edu/alumni. We'd love to have you join us.

Finally, we bid farewell to our seniors. What amazing young women and men! They will be missed; however, there are so many opportunities for them to stay connected to the St. Norbert College community. But, in order for our young grads to continue to receive alumni announcements/invitations, especially e-communications, we need current contact information. A gentle reminder from you would sure be appreciated. Their contact information can be updated on our alumni web site at www.snc.edu/alumni. And to you, our parents of seniors, know that you also remain part of this college community. We would love to have you continue to be involved, joining us at alumni and parent events in your communities, returning to campus for a visit, or volunteering in one of our PRIDE initiatives. Events and volunteer opportunities are listed on our web site. And always, feel free to contact our office with questions, suggestions or just to say hello.

Congratulations to the class of 2006 and their parents!

Warm regards,
Judy Turba '76
 DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AND PARENT RELATIONS

Encourage your student to make summer count!

Summer is just around the corner, and it's the perfect time for your student to take advantage of one or more summer sessions offered at St. Norbert. It's a great opportunity to get ahead, catch up, save an extra semester, replace a low grade, or even prepare to graduate early!

3-week summer session 1May 15 – June 2
 3-week summer session 2June 5 – June 23
 5-week summer sessionJune 26 – July 28

More information about summer session is available online at www.snc.edu/summersession, or call 920-403-4075.

Mark Your Calendar: Important Events for 2006-07

Fall Classes Begin

Monday, Aug. 28, 2006

Family Weekend

Friday, Sept. 22–Sunday, Sept. 24, 2006

Long Weekend

Thursday, Oct. 5–Sunday, Oct. 8, 2006

Reunion Weekend

Friday, Oct. 13–Sunday, Oct. 15, 2006

Junior Knights and Days

Friday, Feb.16–Sunday, Feb.18, 2007

For information regarding local hotels, check out www.kressinn.com or go to www.snc.edu/parents/familyweekend. The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations reserves rooms for St. Norbert College parents, so be sure to mention that you are the parent of a St. Norbert student.

Looking for
a place to stay
while visiting
your son or
daughter?

Then look no further...
St. Norbert College
owns and operates
an all-suite hotel
conveniently located
on campus.



- WELL-APPOINTED SPACIOUS SUITES
- REFRIGERATOR, MICROWAVE AND CABLE TV
- FREE DELUXE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- FREE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET
- FREE PASSES TO YMCA
- WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE TO AREA RESTAURANTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND SHOPPING
- SPECIAL PARENT RATES ALL YEAR

(Some special event weekends require a two night minimum.
Please call hotel for details.)

For reservations call
(800) 221-5070
and be sure to ask for the
St. Norbert parent discount.

President's Corner

A TIME TO MOURN, A TIME TO HEAL



William J. Hynes
President

What do you do when two senior women, Leslie A. Kroschel and Alya K. Sami, are killed in a car accident? And this following the deaths of other students earlier this year. How can a community cope with the enormity of the moment? How can we move from a time when these young vibrant incarnated spirits were vital members of this community, their families, their class, social organizations and work environments—to a time where we have only our memories of their significance, accomplishments and impact upon us, along with their pictures, mementos and possessions?

When I was fresh out of college, I thought ceremonies dealing with death were fairly meaningless. Being Irish, I had grown up with wakes but often found them exercises in dissipation. Then I made a discovery that others had made before me. I began to realize that these ceremonies were less for the person who had died and more for those who had to continue living. These were ways that cultures and religions had over time discovered how to begin to fill in the void in the community left by death. Gradually I began to realize that the use of drink and food was not just a way of masking the void with numbness, but an occasion to gather, remember and celebrate the unique life and personality of those who had left us.

Anthropologists call rituals that allow us to make a transition from one state to another state in life "rites of passage." We have rites of passage for birth, adulthood, mar-

riage and death. In our current situation, rituals of death allow us to move from a state where these young women were a lively graceful presence, to a new state where we are sustained by the memory and the gift of their earlier presence. They live in our memory of them—thus the Latin phrase, *in memoriam*.

We who continue to live come together to share our grief, to console family and friends, to share our memories, to cry at our loss, to laugh at the humor and crazy things that our friends used to do, to ponder the meaning of life and death, to wonder about a providential God, and to try to begin to fill the void that their deaths have left in our lives. One of our Norbertine colleagues, Fr. Jay Fostner, O.Praem., vice president for Mission and Heritage, put it best when he counseled all of us that the only thing that can fill this void is love. God's love for us. Our love of one another. The only thing that can fill the void made by the absence of two lives, is to fill this void with life itself.

In our recent Lenten season, we traveled with Jesus toward Easter. Jesus' life filled the lives of his followers. Knowing he would die, he gave us his Eucharist and told us to repeat it *in memoriam*. When he did die, his departure left the largest void possible, but it was filled by the Eucharist, his resurrected return, and the tongues of inspiring fire of the Spirit at Pentecost. As active Christians, we not only have the Eucharist and the Spirit, but we have Jesus' promise that we, too, will ultimately rise from the dead and be reunited with all those whom we love and have gone before us. Perhaps this is the blessing hidden in our feeling that "life passes so quickly." Within the time frame of eternity, our promised reunion will happen extraordinarily quickly and last forever.

Residential Life LIVING AREA CLOSING INFORMATION

Commencement ceremonies and Mass will be held on Sunday, May 14, 2006. Students who have applied for summer housing will be able to live in their academic year assignment until their assigned summer housing space is available. The St. Norbert College living areas will close according to the following schedule.

Bergstrom, Burke, Madelaine/Lorraine, MMM, Michels, Sensenbrenner and VMC will close at noon on Saturday, May 13, 2006. All students must be moved and checked out of their

academic year room assignments by noon on Saturday.

Graduating seniors who live in a residence hall will be able to remain in their academic year assignments until Monday, May 15, 2006 at noon.

Carriage House, Townhouses, College Houses, Convent, Rectory, Riverside and Vander Zanden will close at noon on Tuesday, May 16, 2006. All students including seniors must be moved and checked out by noon on Tuesday. Personal student lofts must be taken

down by Friday, May 5, 2006. The College is not able to provide personal storage for students due to lack of storage space. Only the rented lofts provided by "Campus Lofts Inc." can be stored during announced storage hours.

For more information, an updated hall closing newsletter will be posted online at the end of March at www.snc.edu/housing/pages/newsletter/spring_newsletter.htm.

Mike Peckham
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE

S.H.O.P. – Student Housing Option Program

Believe it or not, students have already been asked to think about their housing plans for next fall. The Office of Residential Life hosted three nights of S.H.O.P. (Student Housing Option Program). Returning students were assigned a randomly generated S.H.O.P. number based on their class standing. At the designated S.H.O.P. night your son/daughter, in number order, chose where and with whom he or she will live. Once your student selected a spot, he or she was asked to sign a Housing Agreement Form that is

binding for the 2006-07 school year. Students who signed up for traditional residence halls were assigned a meal plan based on class standing.

Off Campus Living

St. Norbert is a residential college, thus your student will be required to live in College housing unless he or she has applied for and been granted commuter or off-campus permission. Seniors, provided they meet age and/or credit requirements, are automatically given off-campus permission. As a parent, you

can help with this process by inquiring about their plans.

This is an exciting time! Most students report that picking a room and roommates is fun. No doubt it makes them excited about next fall.

If you have any additional questions, please call the Office of Residential Life at 920-403-3360 or e-mail reslife@snc.edu.

Mary Beckers
RESIDENTIAL LIFE OFFICE MANAGER

New Student Editor

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Kristen Buettner and I am the new editor for the Parent Newsletter. I am currently a junior, from Long Grove, Illinois, and an English major with minors in Business Administration and Sociology.

I started working at the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at the beginning of this school year as the Junior Knights and Days (JKD) Intern. As the title would suggest, my main focus was planning JKD. JKD was February 17-19, and I am proud to say the weekend was a great success.

Working in the alumni office has been an awesome experience. The alumni office sponsors a lot of fun programs that I was not completely aware of until I started working here. As a student, it has

been great to see how willing alums are to help current students. Alums are always more than happy to assist students in their job searches and even to help students settle in new areas of the country. I remember hearing one story of an alum who heard that a student was moving near him and he was willing to do all that he could to help her become adjusted to the new environment.

It has also been great to learn about and work on ways to keep alums connected to St. Norbert College. I know that I have loved my time here and that St. Norbert will always hold a special place in my heart. However, my time at St. Norbert is not limited to the time I spend attending classes and living on campus. The alumni office sponsors many amazing events that I look forward to participating in after I graduate,

including: happy hours, networking opportunities, Cub and Brewer games, golf outings, service opportunities, reunions and Alumni College, just to name a few. Additionally, the Alumni Office is helpful in connecting past alums with each other. They are constantly finding new ways to connect with alums and offering new and fun ways for alums to relive some of their St. Norbert experiences.

Best of all, my internship allows me to work with a wonderful and energetic group of individuals. The staff truly loves what they do. I would recommend to all students to stop in and get to know the staff of the alumni office, not only while you are at SNC, but after you graduate.

Kristen Buettner
EDITOR

Through the Hard Times

Despite all efforts to the contrary, we exist as mortal beings, with a beginning and an ending to our time on earth. To quote Dr. Robert Berdahl, the chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley, "how we handle the response to deaths as a community reflects how we value the people within that community." With our ability to function in a global village, and with the communication abilities only dreamed of in decades past, we have a great chance to be emotionally closer to a larger number of people than ever before. However, a potential downside to this is that we can feel a greater sense of loss when someone

close to us experiences great suffering or passes away.

Within the context of the College community, the Counseling Center and Campus Ministry staffs are present and accessible to discuss matters related to grief and loss, and to begin and facilitate processes of healing. Within the Counseling Center, we stress the benefits of a shared burden, professional insight and a chance to acquire more wisdom. In return, we ask only for the investment of students' time and as much energy as they can call to bear.

Grief resources for the general community are available online—

several of the best can be found at the site for the Virtual Pamphlet collection of the Counseling Center Village. Their site can be found at www.ccvillage.buffalo.edu.

Anyone requesting further information can contact me at kurt.weber@snc.edu, or at (920) 403-3045. Please be assured that my staff members and I are experienced professionals who have dedicated our professional lives to ameliorating suffering and helping students develop as fully as possible into the adults that they want to become.

Kurt Weber
DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING CENTER

Alumni College

We invite you to attend the Second Annual Alumni College on May 18 and 19, 2006. This is a wonderful opportunity to relive your college experience and learn something new from a group of fantastic professors. This event is not only for alums of St. Norbert College; last year we had a number of parents of current St. Norbert students attend, and they all had a great time.

Alumni College includes three, three-hour class sessions, catered meals and a wine-tasting.

We have a great group of professors presenting this year on a variety of topics including:

Dr. Karlyn Crowley, assistant professor of English and director of women's and gender studies, "An Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies."

Fr. Jim Neilson, assistant professor of art, "Unraveling the Da Vinci Code and Demystifying the Great Masterpieces of Christian Art."

Dr. Paul Wadell, professor of religious studies, "Finding a Path for Life."

Dr. Michael Olson, assistant professor of physics, "The ABCs of Radiation Physics."

Dr. Sandy Odorzynski, professor of economics, "Social Security and Health Care."

Dr. Joe Tullbane, associate dean and director of international education, "U.S. Foreign Policy and the Fragile Fabric of the Middle East."

For more information and to register for Alumni College go to: www.snc.edu/alumni or call us at 920-403-3022 or 800-236-3022.

Kristen Buettner
EDITOR

SENIOR WINE-TASTING

The alumni office sponsored a brand new event this year—Senior Wine-Tasting. It was an educational opportunity for seniors to come together and learn all about wine. The event was led by our resident wine expert, Fr. Jay Fostner, vice president of Mission and Heritage. Each table of students had an alum present to help pour wine and answer any questions regarding what it means to be an alum. Attendees commented that being able to interact with alums was "one of the best parts of the night."

Seniors got a chance to try six different types of wines from a dry pinot grigio to a sweet dessert wine. The event was a huge success with 75 seniors attending. As one attendee remarked, "this was an awesome educational experience as well as a unique way to bond with my classmates...a great tradition, make sure to continue it in the future!"

Lauren Worthy
ALUMNI AND PARENT RELATIONS INTERN

Faculty Highlight

Name: Paul Schnorr

Discipline: Sociology

Classes Currently Teaching: Introduction to Sociology, Social Research Methods, and Special Topics: Research Seminar

Originally From: Born in Shawano, Wisconsin, and graduated from Altoona Public High School (near Eau Claire, Wisconsin)

Colleges and Universities Attended: Valparaiso University, B.A. in Economics
Northwestern University, M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology

Favorite Movie:

This is a tough one because there are favorites in different genres. I guess I will just use the one that I have probably watched the most and still find fascinating; that is *The Graduate*. The dark humor set in the context of social commentary on the society of the 1960s is great. And, of course, you have the Simon and Garfunkle soundtrack.

Areas of Interest:

My primary areas of sociological interest are race, urban issues and the process of teaching. In particular, I am interested in how experiential education affects students learning about race and urban issues because ideas are no longer abstract concepts. But instead this type of education affects students intellectually, emotionally and spiritually.

People don't know that I...

Well, some people know it, but many don't know that I live on a farm and spend a lot of time growing vegetables and canning pickles, tomatoes and salsa. I also have a hobby of making my own beer, hard apple cider and Mead (honey wine). Finally, I often think I'm having the most fun when I'm either using my 1952 tractor to plow my driveway or mow my fields.

Describe a favorite classroom experience:

My favorite classroom experiences involve energetic discussion with students that draw on their own experiences. An exercise that frequently generates a lot of energy is when I ask the male and female students to break into separate groups to discuss what they learned about what it means to be a man or a woman. Both men and women come up with generally the same lists; but they have the most fun when they come up with the list for the opposite sex. Then we look at those lists in reference to traditional ideals of masculinity and femininity to realize how powerful the traditional ideals are in shaping our understanding of gender roles.

What is your most interesting experience with a student at St. Norbert College?

Interesting can be defined in so many ways...I guess one experience that really stands out involved a student not in one of my classes. It was a warm Friday in spring and I was meeting with my Introduction to Sociology class. I was a bit surprised that all the students were present on such a nice afternoon during the last class of the week. Because it was so warm, the students wanted to have class outside. I won't move entire classes outside, but we did have a time for group discussion during this class, so I let them go outside for 15 minutes of discussion. I also warned them that the same number of students who went outside should come back. What was interesting is that a friend of some students came by their discussion, joined the group, and came back to class to process the discussion. This student contributed to the overall class discussion and made some very good points. I never expected MORE students to come back to class on that beautiful Friday in spring.

What would you most like students to learn from your classes?

The most important thing I would like students to take away from my classes is the ability to use the sociological perspective—that is, to look beyond individual motivations and actions to see how the larger society influences possibilities and limitations for different groups in society.

What would you most like students to gain through their years at SNC?

The confidence and ability to be critical thinkers and informed actors in society. Whether in their future work or community life, I hope that students here develop the ability to understand that there are many different perspectives on most issues. More, I hope that they develop the self-confidence and leadership to use that understanding to guide their actions.

What book from your classes would you recommend to parents so that they can learn as their student learns and have something to discuss with him or her?

I would probably recommend two books from my Senior Colloquium: Social Inequalities. The first is "Power, Privilege and Difference" by Allen Johnson. This book provides an accessible introduction to the complex ways in which different social groups in America are privileged and disadvantaged. A second book would be "The Debt" by Randall Robinson. This book presents some very controversial ideas regarding reparations for slavery and would provide a much more intense discussion.

Career Connections

GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL PREPARATION FOR STUDENTS

The Career Services Office at St. Norbert College is a comprehensive resource assisting students and alumni in the following areas: selecting majors and minors; identifying skills, values, interests and personality traits; developing internship opportunities, preparing for and gaining admission to graduate and professional school programs, and pursuing volunteer service and full-time employment opportunities.

With specific regard to the graduate and professional school admission process, Career Services provides the following resources and services:

Workshops/Seminars on Graduate and Professional School Admission

■ Graduate School Planning—panel presentation by alums who offer tips and experiences about their graduate school decisions and applications.

Graduate/Professional School Fair

■ In conjunction with Lawrence University, St. Norbert College offers an annual graduate school fair; the 7th Annual Graduate Fair will be held next fall on October 17, 2006.

Graduate/Professional School Advising

■ Advise students on graduate school/professional school process. Work with issues such as: Do I need to go? Where can I go? How do I research programs? How do I apply? How do I prepare for entrance exams?

■ Critique student and alumni admission essays; critique interview skills and discuss interview process.

■ Encourage students to work with graduate and professional school advisors on campus.

Graduate/Professional School Materials

■ Gaining Admission to Graduate School brochure and on-line guide; workshops and one-on-one advising.

■ Career Library Graduate/Professional School section: contains Peterson's Guides, admission essay preparation materials, test prep materials, GRE PowerPrep, application materials, etc.

■ Career Services Office web page section on Graduate/Professional School: www.snc.edu/career/students/grad-school.htm contains links to St. Norbert grad school advisors, various graduate and professional links including gradschools.com, testing sites and Peterson's.

Annual Graduating Student Follow-Up Survey

■ Conduct a 9-month-out Graduating Student Follow-up Survey on most recently graduated class. Compile placement information on number employed (various levels), attending graduate/professional school, participating in volunteer services, and serving in the military. For the Classes of 2003 and 2004, 14 to 20 percent of the students were admitted to full-time graduate and professional schools.

Jerry Donahue
DIRECTOR OF CAREER SERVICES

Bergstrom Hall Students Receive Recognition

"The President and the administration of St. Norbert College, by virtue of the authority vested in them, do hereby declare, proclaim and affirm that the 2005-06 Bergstrom Hall Community embodies the essence, heart and soul of St. Norbert College."

The Department of Residential Life publicly thanked and recognized the staff and students of Bergstrom on March 2, 2006, by administrative proclamation, for their exceptional presence on campus this academic year. In particular, the resi-

dents were cited for their civility, respect, initiative and leadership, and were publicly thanked by Dr. William Hynes, president of the College, and Dr. Richard Rankin, vice president of Student Life, for their accomplishments so far this year.

During this year, the staff and students in Bergstrom Hall worked tirelessly to improve the physical condition of the building, working in collaboration with the Housekeeping, Facilities and Residential Life staffs to make the residence hall a more attractive, safer, cleaner environment for this year's students and all who

will follow. They found creative ways to fund initiatives that would otherwise have gone undone. They connected academic learning in the Freshmen Seminar course with out-of-class experiences in Bergstrom Hall, and they imbued the building with a unique spirit of friendship, cooperation and collaboration.

Congratulations, Bergstrom Hall!

Mike Peckham
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Student Government Association:

CAPPING OFF A GREAT YEAR AT SNC

With final exams fast approaching, it is hard to believe that the 2005-06 school year at St. Norbert College is nearing an end. Student Government Association (SGA) has had a wonderful year. We've worked diligently to answer student concerns that have come our way, and are happy to report that many of these concerns have been tackled. Some are still in the process of being worked out, but, as a group, SGA is very proud of the accomplishments over the past year.

One exciting new change brought about recently by SGA was the purchase of healthy option vending machines for various academic buildings on campus. Earlier this year, SGA approved of and funded the purchase of two new vending machines and the replacement of others in both Boyle and Cofrin halls. The two new machines vend healthy foods such as sandwiches, fruit, milk and other snacks and are located on the second floor of Boyle and in the basement of Cofrin. The sandwich machines come on the heels of a demand for an alternate source of lunch and healthy snacks for students. Each of the new vending machines were installed during spring break and were fully operational upon the return of students on March 20.

Another huge task our organization has undertaken has been the complete revamping of the internal structure of SGA, including our constitution. We are working to

change our mission statement to better exemplify our values and vision as an organization. We are truly excited about the changes we're making within our assembly and hope these adjustments will allow us to serve the student body more efficiently. Students had the opportunity to vote on the passing of this new constitution during this year's SGA election.

SGA conducted the election process of choosing its executive board (E-Board) for the 2006-07 school year. Applications were available to any student who wished to run. Voting for the E-Board was conducted online and was open to all students. Students were encouraged to vote and participate in the elections as their opinions and voices do matter at SNC.

We hope all is well, and please remember to feel free to contact SGA with any questions, comments or concerns that you may have regarding St. Norbert and the various issues we face. The sole purpose of SGA is to ultimately continue to make St. Norbert a better place for all by creating, motivating and embracing student leaders. We, as an organization, couldn't be happier about striving to bring about desired change within the College community.

Megan Mevissen
PUBLICITY CHAIR, SGA

Bob Vickman
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER, SGA

ATTENTION PARENTS OF GRADUATES!

GRADUATION WEEKEND EVENTS • SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2006

9:30 a.m. Baccalaureate Mass
Schuldes Sports Center

10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Brunch
Sensenbrenner Memorial Union
Tickets available through the St. Norbert box office (1-800-SNC-BOX)

1:30 p.m. Commencement Ceremony
Schuldes Sports Center

ALTERNATIVE VIEWING AREAS FOR COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY:
Campus Center Lounge • Fort Howard Theater, Bemis International Center

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW COMMENCEMENT

For more information and details regarding Commencement go to:
www.snc.edu/registrar/commencement/events.htm

Congratulations, Class of 2006!