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Connecting Parents to the College Community

Winter 2005-06

St. Norbert College

De Pere, Wisconsin

At a Glance

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Alumni and Parent Relations

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www.snc.edu/parents

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I certainly hope the semester is unfolding well for both you and your student. It is amazing to think the holiday season is right around the corner.

This semester, I have fully come to realize just how responsive our alumni are in terms of helping to meet our students' needs. Most have not forgotten their St. Norbert College experience and just what it meant to them. They seem to feel a responsibility to support our current students in a variety of ways. For example, one of our students just flew to Accra, Ghana, to student teach. I e-mailed an alum living there asking if he would be willing to be a resource for her. Within an hour after the e-mail was sent, he not only had responded to me, but had written our student with his information, addresses of relatives living there and offered his assistance 24/7. Talk about alleviating some of her fears, as well as the fears of her parents!

Besides personal support, many of our alumni are involved with Career Services as wonderful resources for career information, networking and possible jobs/internships. Jerry Donahue, director of Career Services, discusses the initiative in this issue.

In the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, we also offer students a program entitled Knights of Networking, where an alum meets with a small group of students, sharing his/her career path, leadership style, words of wisdom and networking possibilities. Inevitably these alumni are willing to meet individually with students, review resumes and, in some cases, open doors in terms of jobs or internships. These are golden opportunities for students and, at times, have actually led to full-time positions.

This wonderful cycle of give and take seems to come down to a deep sense of community—a lifelong community. And please remember, you as parents and guardians are indeed a special part of this community. We hope you join us for various alumni/parent events offered throughout the year including the Day of Reflection described on page two. We also hope you'll share your professional expertise with our students by becoming involved with the Career Services Professional Network.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us. If we don't have the answer, we'll certainly direct you to those who do.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very blessed holiday season.

Warm regards,

Judy Turba '76
 DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AND PARENT RELATIONS

Junior KNIGHTS & DAYS

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2006

TOP FIVE REASONS TO ATTEND JUNIOR KNIGHTS & DAYS:

5. After all...you've been looking for a weekend away.
4. For the first time in three years, you'll know where your son or daughter is every minute of the weekend.
3. Be able to experience college in the 21st century
2. Spend rare quality time with your son or daughter
1. Experience one of the most memorable weekends you'll have together

We continue to hear from parents who attended JKD in the past about just how amazing this weekend was. We hope you'll make every attempt to join us. Registration forms will be sent before Christmas. Additional information and online registration can be found at www.snc.edu/parents/jkd.

(Note: JKD information may have inadvertently been sent to parents of sophomores because of the number of credits your student has accrued. The weekend is intended for juniors, as well as seniors who had studied abroad and were unable to attend the weekend during their junior year. Thanks for your understanding.)

President's Corner

WELCOMING A NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR MISSION AND HERITAGE



William J. Hynes
President

This spring we bade goodbye to the Rev. Dane Radecki, O.Praem., who served as our first vice president for Mission and Heritage. Fr. Dane accepted the presidency of Notre Dame Academy in Green Bay. During his tenure, we increased our focus on the values of mission and our three master heritages: Catholic, Norbertine and liberal arts. We now have a new board committee on Mission and Heritage, a strategic plan for Mission and Heritage and a stipulation that five percent of the cost of any building project must be used to promote our Mission and Heritage. In addition, we received a \$2 million grant from the Lilly Foundation to promote the understanding of each person's vocation.

We are extremely fortunate to have been able to name the Rev. Jay Fostner, O.Praem., '84 as the new vice president for Mission and Heritage. Fr. Jay was previously the director of St. Norbert Counseling Services. He continues to be assistant professor of psychology and the board chair of Notre Dame Academy. Fr. Jay is particularly interested in strengthening the ways in which core values from our Mission and Heritage are evoked in our students,

staff and faculty. To this end, we began this new school year with a brief survey to determine to what extent key values within our traditions are understood. Although there was strong evidence that these values are clearly understood, the results also indicated that as a community we do not always live these values.

Among Fr. Jay's top priorities are assuring that the community takes very seriously the sacred time we have set aside on Wednesdays for contemplation. This contemplation can occur by attending our Common Prayer service, by closing one's door and reflecting or taking a quiet walk along the river. He is also very dedicated to assuring that human dignity is being honored campus-wide. In this he will be assisted by a new policy on civility, which encourages members of the community to confront behavior that does not respect the sacredness of any person.

Day of Reflection

LIVING THE LIFE YOU WANT: MEETING GOD IN THE ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY MOMENTS OF OUR LIVES

The Rev. Conrad Kratz, O.Praem., '70, director of the Norbertine Center for Spirituality and former pastor of St. Norbert College, will facilitate the day. This program will examine ways of living life to the fullest and offer some tips on how to get started—a perfect way to begin the new year.

When: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 21, 2006

Where: Old St. Joseph Church, St. Norbert College

Cost: \$15 (includes continental breakfast, lunch, refreshments)

For information or to register, call the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at 800-236-3022, or register online at www.snc.edu/alumni

St. Norbert College T.R.I.P.S.

"Never doubt that a group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has" (Margaret Mead). These words give voice to that which cannot be expressed by over 100 St. Norbert College students a year. Participants in the T.R.I.P.S. (Turning Responsibility Into Powerful Service) program, who spend a week of their winter or spring break serving at 10-15 national and international sites, often find the journey so powerful that it defines who they are and what they value. The students return from their trips passionate about a cause and ready to share their passion with fellow students not simply in word, but in action.

As a student, I participated in three service trips, and the experiences were three of the most memorable weeks of both my college career and my life. The T.R.I.P.S. program is not simply a week-long trip. It involves a yearlong commitment to planning, orientation, reorientation and reflection. Ultimately the program aims to teach participants to lead, learn, live responsibly, seek wisdom, serve and understand differences—hands-on

lessons that cannot be taught in a classroom.

Through the T.R.I.P.S. program, service became my passion. Each trip has a different focus. My trips to New York City, Washington, D.C., and Jackson, Miss., focused on HIV/AIDS awareness, homelessness and civil rights, respectively. From navigating the streets of New York City delivering meals to homebound AIDS patients, to living in the largest homeless shelter in the country for a week, to touring the motel where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, my service trips gave me experiences that I could not have had anywhere else. In many ways, the T.R.I.P.S. program defined who I am today by teaching me to lead, speak up about issues of social injustice and follow the Norbertine value of self-emptying service. Through service, I bonded with other St. Norbert students in a profound way and I remain close to many of the friends I made on trips, even after graduation.

I chose to spend my first year after graduation serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA, and my decision to do so was

largely based on the values I acquired through the program. Before I went on my first trip, I was uninvolved and unsure of myself. T.R.I.P.S. helped me to find my niche at St. Norbert and shaped my college career in immeasurable ways. My experience with the T.R.I.P.S. program was so profound that words fail it. Though Margaret Mead certainly comes close to describing the goal of a service trip, the only true way to understand a trip is to experience one firsthand. This year, your son or daughter has the chance to go on a winter break trip to Chicago, Jackson, New York City, Washington, D.C., St. Lucia or Philadelphia; or a spring break trip to West Virginia, Memphis, Cincinnati or the U.S./Mexico border. Though winter trips are full for this school year, spring trips still have openings. I would encourage you to talk to your son or daughter about applying for a trip to give him or her the experience of a lifetime. More information about the T.R.I.P.S. program can be found at www.snc.edu/trips.

Maribeth Frinzi '05
AMERICORPS VISTA SERVICE LEARNING
COORDINATOR

Save the Date

Join us for the second annual Alumni College

May 18-19, 2006

Parents who attended last year were thrilled with the opportunity to experience phenomenal professors, stimulating lectures and delightful camaraderie.

Watch your mail and our web site for details.

Retention at St. Norbert College

For approximately the last 14 months, a number of faculty and staff at St. Norbert College have worked diligently to understand both what makes students want to continue living and studying at St. Norbert College, and what makes some of them want to pursue an education elsewhere.

While we consistently find that a student's high school grade point average is in many ways the best predictor of their eventual success at St. Norbert, there are many resources available for students at all levels of academic preparation. For students we have identified as being under-prepared for college, we offer the Academic Enhancement Program, as well as our Success Program for students who underperform while they are here. Students occasionally self-enroll in the Success Program, simply to sharpen their academic focus. Both Academic Enhancement and Success are run out of our Office of Academic Support Services in John Minahan Science Hall.

In addition, our director of Academic Advising chairs what we refer to

as our "30-Minute-Group," a team of faculty and administrators who meet weekly, for 30 minutes, to identify students who seem to be at imminent risk of failure or serious academic or other problems. This team shares information with one another confidentially and makes decisions about how best to reach out to each student we have identified as potentially being at risk. "Risky behaviors" have been defined by our team as an excessive number of absences, more than one mid-term grade of concern and/or failure to abide by agreements with faculty or staff to change behaviors in the classroom. Interventions range from e-mail or telephone contacts to personal visits by residence hall or other staff members to make sure the student is using the resources available to them.

Three separate teams of staff and faculty also continue to work to explore and analyze a number of issues related to how students make decisions about continuing to study at St. Norbert. One team focuses on issues of cost and pricing strategies, one team explores the parameters associated with an opti-

mal student body composition and the means necessary to achieve it, and one team tries better to understand the characteristics of students who are particularly at risk at St. Norbert, and what the various parts of the institution might do to best assist them while they are here with us.

The three various teams have generated a number of ideas, and many are being explored further. All ideas that appear to help the College achieve our strategic objectives and that help us better care for our students are being given full consideration, and work continues on all fronts. We are eagerly awaiting the hiring of our new associate vice president for Enrollment Management, who will assume responsibility for oversight of many of these tasks, as the search process for this vital position is currently underway.

Corday Goddard
DIRECTOR OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Student Government Association: Wheels in Motion

The temperature is cooling, the squirrels are scrambling for food and final exams are right around the corner. So, what has Student Government Association (SGA) been up to this semester?

First off, we are proud to announce and congratulate the three newly elected executive board members: Katie Steinhardt to parliamentarian, Megan Mevissen to publicity chair and Steve Wagner to technology chair. These three individuals will be an extreme asset to the organization. Of course this wouldn't be possible without our outstanding newly elected general assembly, which currently represents every division and department with at least one member.

As we look to the horizon, SGA has many obstacles to overcome and topics to tackle. Rising energy costs threaten the budget of private education, and ultimately the cost of education for students and parents. All of us here are looking for ways to cut

corners to reduce the amount of energy consumed, especially before winter comes. Current ideas include the re-creation of the Energy Task Force Committee and a program where students can exchange their current ordinary lightbulbs for more efficient ones for FREE!

Another important item is the library. A main focus of the College master plan is to create a new library. However, in the mean time, students are constantly using the current library not only as a quiet place to study, but more importantly for access to late night technology. The results of an SGA survey at the end of last year indicated a student desire for later operating hours. Therefore, from October 23 till November 24, SGA, with the help of the library, conducted a month-long trial to extend the library hours from midnight to 2 a.m.

Lastly, in the midst of our progress, there has been a discussion about a new student

health insurance plan. The new proposal is very extensive and detailed and will require much deliberation and discussion by all. We will keep you updated on any substantial progress.

We hope all is well at home with you parents, and please remember if you have any questions, comments or concerns with St. Norbert College in any way, shape or form, don't hesitate to contact SGA. Our sole purpose is to ultimately make St. Norbert better than when we entered by creating, motivating and embracing student leaders. We may not always have the answers, but we can definitely point you in the right direction.

Eric Guzowski '06
STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT

Megan Mevissen '08
SGA PUBLICITY CHAIR

Faculty Highlight

Name: Karlyn Crowley

Discipline: English

Classes Currently Teaching: Women and Literature: Contemporary Women's Texts, Contemporary Ethnic Fiction in the U.S., Introduction to African American Literature, African American Novel, Nineteenth-Century American Novel, U.S. Literature Survey to 1865, Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

Originally From: Washington, D.C.

Colleges and Universities Attended: Ph.D., English, University of Virginia, 2002; M.A., English with certificate in Women's Studies, University of Virginia, 1997; B.A., English and Women's Studies, Earlham College, 1990.

Favorite Movie: Wizard of Oz

Favorite Book: George Eliot, *Middlemarch*

Areas of Interest: American literature, Women's Studies, and Race and Ethnic Studies emphasis

People don't know that I...
almost didn't go to college because I wanted to ride horses in the Olympics.

Describe a favorite classroom experience:
On the last day of class last semester, I said that I would give a nickel to whomever did the best imitation of me—it was frightening. I could have spent hundreds of dollars.

What is your most interesting experience with a student at SNC?
About a month ago, I took students to the Oneida Nation Museum, about ten minutes from the College. Serendipitously, our tour guide was the official tribal historian and it was one of the most delightful and informative experiential learning moments that I have had. The students were blown away.

What would you most like students to learn from your classes?
To discover the pleasure of learning and talking about ideas and to discover voices and experiences they were unaware of.

What would you most like students to gain through their years at SNC?
Compassion, intelligence and a desire to change the world.

What book(s) 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?
Louise Erdrich's *Tracks* (from Contemporary Ethnic fiction class—a beautiful novel about an American Indian family over the span of about sixty years)

Joan Jacobs Brumberg's *The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls* (from Intro to Women's and Gender Studies—if I were a parent, I would read this with my teenagers, especially if I had daughters)

Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography* (from U.S. Literature to 1865—a hilarious and engaging read from an American "saint")

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your son or
daughter?

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- 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.

Message from the Dean . . .



Michael T. Marsden
Dean of the College and
Academic Vice President

This is the second year that St. Norbert College is offering a January term, or as some members of the College community refer to it, the J-term. The J-term is a three-week term running from January 2-20, 2006, during which there will be ten half or full courses offered to students who want to enroll in a study/travel option, an elective course on a topic of interest, an experimental course or a regular course offered in a different format. The schedule for these

courses is the same intensive three-week term utilized in the first two Summer Sessions each year and the tuition is the same as the special summer rate of \$450 for a half-course and \$900 for a full course. A student may enroll in only one course during the J-term.

This time between the semesters has often been reserved by liberal arts colleges across the country for special educational opportunities. A student's schedule during a tightly structured four-year degree program does not provide many opportunities for trying out new areas of study, so the J-term is one such opportunity. January term is an option for those who wish to make their semester break a time for exploration of new ideas.

I am planning to teach a course during the J-term in an area of special interest to me. I am looking forward to being able to work with a group of students in a highly focused manner on a single course during a three-week period.

St. Norbert College will provide housing for interested students, as well as limited food service on campus during the January term. You will find a detailed course listing for J-term below. Please discuss the possibilities with your son or daughter to help expand their horizons.

Courses and Professors:

- Applications of Chemistry (GS 4) – taught by J. Russel
- The Automobile and American Culture – taught by M. Marsden
- Compensation Management – taught by M. Stollak
- Greek Tragedy on Site: Sicily – taught by R. Sands
- The Italian Business Environment – taught by I. Jenkel
- Managing Diversity in the Classroom – taught by K. Mogi-Hein
- Peer Leadership in Student Affairs – taught by C. Goddard
- Personal Finance – taught by P. Bursik
- Portfolio Seminar (Art) – taught by B. Pirman
- Theatre Lovers Delight—Chicago – taught by S. Rupsch

The St. Norbert Career Contact Network

Beginning in 2004, the Career Services office, in close cooperation with the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, began to expand its networking capacity with alumni. The Career Services Professional Network (CSPN) has expanded from 85 to nearly 400 interested alumni and friends of the College! By participating in this network, a volunteer may help a student decide which academic major to pursue, understand the value of a liberal arts education, explore career fields and organizations of interest, make a decision about graduate or professional school and find regions of the country that might offer good career opportunities for that student. It can be an invaluable resource to help students identify the best life path for themselves.

Students can search the database of volunteers by occupational categories, geographic location, interest area or involvement in activities at St. Norbert. There are currently 122 contacts located

in Illinois, 211 in Wisconsin, 10 in Minnesota and 41 in other states. Some of the occupational categories a student can search by are accounting, banking, law enforcement, education, marketing, communications, ministry and technology, to name a few. Ninety-eight contacts have degrees in higher education.

This past year, several volunteers served as guest speakers in classrooms, helped students with their resumes and cover letters and provided information to students about career fields and opportunities with specific organizations. During October, several participated in a campus program to help students understand the value of graduate and professional education. Clearly these individuals are a tremendous resource for the College and for our students. Our goal is to have a list of over 1,000 alumni and friends of the College willing to help our students. There is really no limit to the potential for this type of resource! In fact, we already know of a number of St. Norbert

grads who have been hired through the CSPN.

As a parent of a St. Norbert student, you will likely realize that these individuals could be a great help to your student. I ask that you encourage your son/daughter to utilize them as best fit their needs. Students can access the database by going to www.myinterfase.com/snc/student and registering with our office. This will allow them to search the database for the person who can best help them with their career questions and issues.

If you would like to join this resource group as a volunteer, please contact me in the Career Services Office at 920-403-3040 or e-mail me at jerry.donahue@snc.edu.

Jerry Donahue
DIRECTOR OF CAREER SERVICES

Counseling Center

The period of time that comprises one's undergraduate education can be one of the most rewarding and fruitful periods of a person's life. Friends are made, relationships are begun and wisdom is learned through experience. However, this time can be one in which students feel pressure to succeed personally and academically. When these pressures begin to have an effect on the development of a person, that person can begin to feel demoralized. When this happens, it's generally a good idea for a student to call on the professional services of the counseling center.

The members of the staff of the St. Norbert Counseling Center, which is located on the lower level of Main Hall, are professionally trained and personally dedicated to aiding students in their development into the adults they want to become. The services offered in the Counseling Center are provided free of charge. They are also confidential in nature, except in the case of imminent danger to oneself or to others, ongoing child or elder abuse or in the event that a court order mandates the release of records.

This confidentiality is not always met with understanding on the part of parents, who of course are deeply concerned with the development and welfare of their adult children. Parents often cannot immediately understand the legal and ethical constraints that are in place when their student seeks counseling, especially when that counseling is funded in part by the tuition dollars often provided by the parents themselves. However, state laws and ethical guidelines stress that the confidentiality resides with the student, who, except in the conditions described above, controls with whom the counselor can share information.

Often counselors will see it as potentially beneficial to be able to make contact with parents and other con-

cerned parties, and will invite the student to sign a standard release form, allowing the counselor to initiate contact with others. This release form includes the names of specific persons and organizations with which the counselor can make contact, the content of any communication and the date upon which such permission expires. Generally, students are happy to allow this contact, especially when the counselor explains the nature of the contact and the rationale for it. However, there are situations in which a student refuses to allow this contact, and the student is well within his/her legal rights to deny such a request.

Often, parents are aware that their student is not doing well in the interpersonal or academic arenas. Such parents often contact the St. Norbert Counseling Center asking that we initiate contact with their son or daughter to invite them to schedule an appointment. Except in rare occasions, it is generally seen as less threatening to an individual if another staff member makes the initial contact with the student and recommends the services of the counseling center. We are happy to discuss concerns related to specific students and to listen to the concerns that others have about them, but under no circumstances can we confirm or deny that a student is being seen at the counseling center without written permission.

Should your son or daughter choose to seek our services, we welcome their presence. However, we also ask in advance for your understanding of the legal and ethical constraints under which we operate, and which are in place to assist in the counseling process. Our best blessings go with you and yours for a successful college experience for your family.

Kurt A. Weber, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR OF THE COUNSELING CENTER

As parents, many of you are still connected with high school students. If you know of any who would benefit from a St. Norbert College education, we'd love to know about them.

Information may be sent to www.snc.edu/alumni/referral or call the Office of Admission at 920-403-3005 or 800-236-4878.