Together on the Journey
Research partnerships open up new fields of possibility
On the cover:
This January saw Tim Flood (Geology), Nicole Bader ’11 and Kathy Licht ’92 undergo rigorous survival training on the way to their five-person research campsite in the heart of Antarctica. Flood took our cover photo while the group was learning how to safely locate and traverse the crevasses that dissect the desolate, wind-swept continent. For more on their story, turn to page 16.
Success begins with what you stand for

College President Thomas Kunkel

It was nearly one in the morning at the crowded Omni hotel in Las Colinas, Texas, which was home base for the Green Bay Packers players during Super Bowl week. Now the hotel was hosting a raucous victory party, and word raced around the ballroom that the newly crowned world champions were arriving.

We all collected around the hotel entrance, whooping and whistling, as the players split the crowd in a long single line. The applause spiked for certain favorites: Clay Matthews, long hair knotted behind his head; Charles Woodson, a sling accenting his black wardrobe; MVP quarterback Aaron Rodgers. Some of the players were wearing suits, while others had on more casual workout gear. But almost all sported the Super Bowl XLV championship caps they had claimed just hours before at Cowboys Stadium.

In their civvies one better appreciates that football players come in all shapes and sizes. The defensive backs seemed shorter than you’d imagine, and some of the linemen were more ripped than round. But watching them go by, the main thought I had was the same one I have always had whenever I’ve been around a professional football team off the field:

They’re so young.

Of course they are. The Packers, for the most part, are men in their early and middle twenties. Some are actually baby-faced. They are, in other words, not far removed from the students on our own campus. For all their youth, however, these young men had just come together, under the direction of their coaches, and reached the pinnacle of their profession. They’d achieved a common goal of excellence, one they’d all dreamed about for as long as they’d been playing football. As a Packers fan and rookie member of the team’s board of directors, I have to tell you it was a great thrill and a privilege to watch it play out.

And in following days, as I devoured all those news stories analyzing how the Packers management had methodically built this championship team, I was struck by how much the process sounded like what we are trying to do right here at St. Norbert College.

In any organization, of course, success begins with what you stand for – your mission, which must be sound, widely embraced and often reinforced. Then there are your goals, clearly articulated in the institution’s vision. Then it’s about talent – acquiring the creative people who understand what you’re trying to do and want to help you do it. You’ve got to have outstanding facilities, so people want to be there and where they can do great work. You need sufficient financial support. And you need the contributions and complete “buy-in” of your ultimate constituency – in our case, our fine students; in the team’s case, the unparalleled Packers fans.

An organization clicking on all cylinders is a thrilling thing to watch. Every Packers fan I know is already champing at the bit for next season to begin, so enthused are we to see what this young but hugely talented team will manage for an encore. And here at St. Norbert, while we have no shortage of challenges before us, the momentum we’ve discussed in this space many times is as real as it is over on Lombardi Avenue. And it’s great fun to watch the dividends in the young faces of our own superstars—our students! 

Reflecting the mission statement of the college, St. Norbert College Magazine links the institution’s past and present by chronicling its academic, cultural, spiritual and co-curricular life.

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Minahan Stadium into pieces that speak to a storied history.

As workers demolished the 70-year-old stadium on the abbey grounds, they meticulously removed materials with the idea that anything that could be reused or recycled, should be. Light poles that used to illuminate night games will shine on the Village of Pound’s athletic complex. Old concrete and blacktop also will be used again, says Mike Van Drisse (Facilities), who supervised the project.

Initially, Bohne picked through the debris to save a stadium memento for friend Frank Pirman ’52, who played football in the undefeated 1951 season. He found a pile of green- and gold-painted wooden planks torn from the steel seating frames. Some were eroded, some abraded; all had a rich texture that, he says, “provided a sense of humanity.” He took a bunch to his studio, not sure what form they would take. “Like a lot of artists, I believe you have to live with your materials to have them talk to you,” Bohne explains. What emerged was a heraldic-like design that has a military feel. Rusty holes permeating the wood give Bohne’s Minahan shields an authentic look, as if they had once served in battle.

Ten years ago, all materials except the steel probably would have been hauled away to a landfill. While recycling required more time during the teardown, Van Drisse says it was worth the effort. “It’s the green thing to do, the right thing to do.” And without that mindset, “the everyday” seats would have disappeared rather than becoming thought-provoking pieces of art.

Service emphasis earns Carnegie honor

The college is recognized among service-learning leaders in higher education with the publication of the new Carnegie Classification on Community Engagement.

Among the 114 institutions nationwide included in the classification are Bucknell University, Cornell University, Denison University, Oberlin College and the University of Notre Dame. St. Norbert is the only private college or university in Wisconsin to receive the honor.

Readers of @St. Norbert learned more about the college’s track record in community engagement in their February 2011 issue, available at www.snc.edu/go/enews.

Church lighting update sees big savings

New LED lighting has been installed in Old St. Joe’s in order to cut costs and increase efficiency. “We worked very hard to maintain the original lighting concepts, to make the lighting change pass unnoticed,” says Lew Pullen (Facilities).

A test case for the manufacturer, the new system is expected to net at least $8,500 in savings this year.
Family tree has many St. Norbert roots

When Mark Schemmel ’14 strolls across campus, he has many familiar footsteps to follow. Make that 15 pairs of footsteps.

Schemmel has become the 16th member of his family to attend the college, a legacy that began with Mark’s grandfather, Alan “Cubby” Wolfe ’53. Twelve of Mark’s relatives, including in-laws, hold St. Norbert degrees, ranging from accounting to graphic design.

His cousin Nick Palm ’11 will graduate in May. Mark’s brother Andy ’07 is now in medical school, and his sister Megan ’09 also is an alum.

Such a legacy was neither planned nor expected, says Mark’s mother, Kim ’79, who shared the campus with her husband, Scott ’79. It just naturally unfolded with one positive experience, one feeling of a “good fit,” leading to the next. Kim’s younger sister and brother followed her from their Madison, Wis., home to De Pere, as did Scott’s siblings.

When Mark started looking at colleges, St. Norbert wasn’t high on the list. He had even made a deposit to secure a spot at Creighton University. Then, on a trip from Madison to their home in Dubuque, Iowa, his father suggested they detour to St. Norbert – just to take a look around. “After that, I changed gears,” Mark says. “It felt like home already. I knew where everything was. And I knew I could call my brother and sister about classes.”

St. Norbert can partially thank the Packers for luring so many Schemmels to the college. Because Wolfe, Kim’s father, had season tickets, he let his children each choose a game to attend. When it was the Schemmels’ turn, Kim says, they sometimes swung by the campus.

After Andy visited, he started to see the college through different eyes. He, too, had made a deposit at another school but realized that St. Norbert was where he needed to be.

Mark, who is studying biology, as Andy and Megan did, says he already has made great friends on campus and loves the small class size. However, he doesn’t want to be seen as “just the next Schemmel kid.”

“There is not a lot of pressure to do what my siblings did,” he says. They may make similar choices, “but we are all very different people.”

Senior diversity advisor leads by inclusivity

To embrace diversity is to celebrate a variety of views. Thus, it makes perfect sense that Cheryl Carpenter-Siegel (Sociology), the college’s first senior advisor for equity and diversity, is approaching the role in a spirit of collaboration, making connections and building upon work already in progress.

“At St. Norbert, this isn’t a new initiative, that suddenly we’re thinking about diversity,” says Carpenter-Siegel. “People have made a study of this. People have been thinking about this, and in different areas of the college, people have started initiatives.”

Notable among those people: the members of the college’s committee on equity, diversity and inclusion (CEDI), which Carpenter-Siegel will chair as she continues to teach part-time. During her early months in the role, she has studied CEDI’s efforts to date, mined current knowledge and practices across campus, and reached out and responded to individuals and organizations with a stake in inclusivity — which is to say everyone at St. Norbert.

Says Carpenter-Siegel, “I see my job as really beginning with exploring what’s being done, how it’s working on campus, the barriers to progress, then comparing what we’re doing with best practices and trying to provide support for enhancing what we’re doing.”

Her priorities thus far in her two-year term have included establishing herself as both a leader in good faith for CEDI and a diversity touchstone for the entire campus community.

“My position crosses so many areas, and should. I want to emphasize that we’re all in this together,” she says. She sees herself not as the campus diversity expert but as the person charged with offering opportunities for all to become diversity experts.

One example of an opportunity seized: Carpenter-Siegel helped expand the impact of a September visit by Larry Roper, vice provost for student services at Oregon State University and a voice on inclusion in higher education. Roper was coming to campus to deliver a cultural competency workshop for Student Affairs staff; Carpenter-Siegel arranged for Roper to breakfast with CEDI, dine with a group of faculty and speak to several education classes.

Other initiatives also have arisen as groups on campus seek Carpenter-Siegel’s input and advocacy. During Heritage Days — and at the request of Bill Hyland, director of the Center for Norbertine Studies — her office co-sponsored a discussion with visiting scholars on the diversity implications of works by 12th-century Norbertine Anselm of Havelberg. She is also in the midst of exploring, with student and faculty development staff, strategies for offering consistent diversity education for everyone from RAs to faculty to campus security.

Her goal: to help the college’s commitment to diversity grow organically as a natural extension of its Catholic, Norbertine and liberal arts traditions.

“There has to be sustained attention to the issue of diversity and inclusion on an institution-wide basis,” she says. “So I see everything I have been doing in my initial months of the position as a means for beginning the next steps in an ongoing institutional effort.”

Farewell to Miss Welnick

A long life has drawn to its end. Genevieve Welnick ’53, of Algoma, Wis., died Nov. 17, 2010, at the age of 104.

Readers met Welnick, the college’s oldest living alum, when she was interviewed for our Fall 2009 issue. Her obituary notice recognized her long career as a dedicated teacher: “Children readily responded to her teaching methods, and many of her pupils chose the teaching profession. “She was a staunch believer in parent involvement in a child’s primary learning foundation, and parents and teachers were invited to observe and enjoy pupil participation and assist when the need arose. The children were given a gift that lasts a lifetime — a love for reading and learning.”
Ground to be broken for transformed Union, Welcome Center this spring

The college has received a $7-million-dollar gift from the Michels family to transform the school’s Sensenbrenner Memorial Union into a state-of-the-art commons and dining facility.

Other major gifts from the Ariens and Thompson families are to fund a significant expansion of the current admissions building on Third Street.

Construction on both projects begins this spring.

Michels Commons will include a ballroom, reception spaces and outdoor patios. In addition, Ruth’s Marketplace — named in honor of Ruth Michels — will reinvent the college dining hall as a health-conscious food court. Dale’s Sports Lounge — named after Dale Michels — will be a casual dining and gathering space with multiple large-screen televisions and other amenities. A two-story atrium will create a dramatic “front door” onto Third Street for the cafeteria/union complex.

The Michels family has long been a part of the St. Norbert College community. Ruth and the late Dale Michels sent three of their four children to St. Norbert College, including Pat ’81 (now a college trustee), Tim ’84 and Kevin ’89. Michelle Michels ’12 is the daughter of Pat and Melanie (Blahnik) Hortsm an ’84.

“St. Norbert College is extremely grateful to the Michels family for this generous commitment,” says President Tom Kunkel. “The family wanted to make sure its gift would dramatically improve the student experience at St. Norbert College. This gift will touch literally every student here. It will be transformational.”

Construction of Michels Commons will be completed by May 2012. The Sensenbrenner Memorial Union was built in 1961, and received a 5,600-square-foot addition in 1994. It houses the college’s primary kitchen and food preparation areas, the current cafeteria, and various spaces for receptions and meetings.

The significant expansion of the current admissions building is set to be completed before this fall. This revitalized resource will be named the Ariens Family Welcome Center in recognition of the primary donors behind the $1 million project, Mike and Mimi Ariens. Mike is a former board chair, and the couple sent six of their children to St. Norbert. Their granddaughter is Meghan Martell ’12.

The project’s highlight will be a welcome rotunda to be built just west of the existing admissions building. Kunkel says: “This feature will dramatically enhance the initial impression we make on campus visitors, especially prospective students and their families. Most of our visitors today approach campus from the west and thus arrive quite literally at our back door.”

A further major element of this project is the Ed and Sally Thompson Office of Communications, named in recognition of donors who have also contributed significantly to the vision for a building that will house the college’s enrollment management and communications teams under one roof.

The Welcome Center will also house the existing Roland and Helen Murphy Admission and Visitor Center.

Ariens Family Welcome Center
Restaurant visionary to speak to local leaders

Michael Archer '82, president of Applebee’s Services Inc. and Applebee’s International Inc. since May 2008, will present “Applebee’s: Contemporizing a 30-Year-Old Brand, One Neighborhood at a Time” at a CEO Breakfast and Strategy Series session April 5.

Archer is responsible for the organization’s vision, future brand evolution and overall strategic development. Applebee’s Neighborhood Grill and Bar is the largest casual dining restaurant chain in the world.

Prior to his current position at Applebee’s, Archer served as president and COO of T.G.I. Friday’s U.S.A.

Archer is also on the national board of directors for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, a position to which he was elected in April 2009.

The breakfast series is an outreach to the business community by the president’s office. Archer’s session will take place at the Bemis International Center on campus.

College leads exploration of vocation

St. Norbert is a founding member of NetVUE, a new initiative of the Council of Independent Colleges. Julie Massey ’87 (Faith, Learning and Vocation) says the college is “thrilled to be a founding member of this network. We see theologically rich explorations of vocation as part of our college’s vision for excellence. We are eager to draw on, and contribute to, an active cross-institutional dialogue about the importance of vocation in undergraduate education.”

Massey has been named a campus consultant for NetVUE. In this role, she will offer member institutions expertise in developing and sustaining campus programs that explore calling.

With Rebecca Welch ’00 (Faith, Learning and Vocation), Massey presented the workshop “Creating a Culture of Vocation” at the July 2010 national conference of the Association for Student Affairs at Catholic Colleges and Universities.

The college began an earnest inquiry into individual vocation in 2000 after it received a grant of nearly $2 million from the Lilly Endowment. In 2005, the college received an additional $500,000 in a sustainability grant for this initiative.

St. Norbert, along with Santa Clara University, is the subject of a doctoral dissertation presented in 2009 by Mark Peters at the University of San Diego. Peters compares the culture of vocation at the Norbertine and Jesuit institutions, saying: “A similar trait ... was their unflagging commitment from the highest levels of the college’s administration. St. Norbert College found staunch support of the executive staff through the office of mission and heritage as well as trustees committed to sustaining the exploration of vocation.”

Founder’s life recalled

Norbertines who remember Abbot Bernard Pennings will join Pennings’ biographer Jean van Stratum at a panel discussion on the college’s founder March 31.

Van Stratum has spent two decades researching the history and foreign apostolates of Berne Abbey in his native Netherlands. This work has resulted in several book-length studies, including “The Fifty of Berne,” detailing the abbey’s work in India, and “Berne ut Lucerna,” on the history of Berne Abbey itself. His study of the life and work of Pennings appeared this year.

The Rev. Jerome Tremel, O.Praem., ’51, the Rev. Al McBride, O.Praem., ’50, and the Rev. Gery Meehan, O.Praem., ’57, will share in reminiscences of the canon of Berne Abbey who established the Norbertine order in the United States. (Tremel, in his turn, served as a successor of Pennings, as abbot of the De Pere abbey.)

Former Packers’ GM speaks to history

Ron Wolf, general manager of the Green Bay Packers 1991-2001, was a recent guest on the “Conversations from St. Norbert College” television show hosted by Kevin Quinn (Economics). The two men discussed Wolf’s legacy in the NFL and what keeps his interest now that he’s away from the pro football spotlight.

Wolf told Quinn he was not fully aware of the significance of the history of the Green Bay Packers until he took up his position at Lambeau. “After I got here, it was like you’re living in a history book. Every time you turned around in the office you were bumping into something you were not aware about. The thrilling point to me was, here you have all this history, let’s take advantage of that.” Wolf, who was the mastermind behind one of the greatest turnarounds in NFL history, brought the word “Title” back to “Titletown” with the 1997 Super Bowl win against the New England Patriots. He made decisions with lasting impact that included hiring Mike Holmgren as head coach and acquiring Brett Favre and Reggie White, creating a winning culture that had not been seen since the Lombardi era.

Since retiring, Wolf has been pursuing his passion for history. After growing up near Gettysburg, Wolf studied history at the University of Oklahoma. “What fascinates me about history,” Wolf explains, “is, where did these people come from before they emerged at the particular time our country needed them.”
College hosts first digital humanities conference geared toward liberal arts college participants

Come June, intellect and the internet will meet at St. Norbert, with Ryan Cordell (English) coordinating. Cordell, the college’s first digital humanist, is the force behind this summer’s THATCamp LAC, the inaugural digital humanities conference focused on liberal arts colleges.

THAT, in this case, is The Humanities And Technology. Their confluence in academic research loosely defines the digital humanities, or DH for short.

“It’s a field 25 to 30 years old, but that’s still kind of finding its feet,” says Cordell. “Most broadly, it’s anyone working in the humanities who’s using substantive digital tools either for discovery or interpretation.”

Cordell’s own research serves as an illustration. He’s constructing an interactive website to let users easily compare versions of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s story “The Celestial Railroad,” digitally unearthed from regional and religious newspapers across the country.

Projects like his invariably require support from technology experts. DH first flourished at large research institutions like the University of Virginia, where Cordell earned his Ph.D.

Fortunately, the very digital tools that make new forms of humanities research and analysis possible also facilitate collaboration between major DH centers and digital humanists like Cordell at smaller colleges across the country.

Says Cordell: “When I have a technical question, I send it out on Twitter, and I tend to get lots of feedback and help. … It becomes sort of my crowdsourcing engine.”

Crowdsourcing is the name of the DH game and the principle behind the innovative format of THATCamp, which first saw light in 2008 at George Mason University’s Center for History and New Media.

THATCamp is an “unconference” modeled on the tech world rather than the academic one. There are no papers read aloud and no observers. Everyone applies as a participant, preparing a few remarks about a question of interest. Then the interactive fun begins.

“Usually the sessions get assembled on the first day. The few people who are featured in a given session will talk about the problem that they’re wrestling with or the idea that they have, and then it becomes a feedback session,” Cordell says.

Those in the thick of a project like Cordell’s sometimes pull back the curtain on the bits and bytes of their virtual construct.

“I’ve seen people do live coding right in the midst of the session,” Cordell says.

That’s only natural given THATCamp participants’ stated goal: to work together for the common good. As THATCamp LAC happens concurrently with THATCamp Prime at George Mason on June 4-5, that goal will manifest in the two sites holding joint virtual sessions.

Says Cordell: “It gives our participants who are probably just coming into the field a peek into one of the hubs of the field, and I think it’s also valuable for the people at the big hubs to get a sense of what DH looks like on the margins as well. I’m hoping it will be mutually beneficial.”

Journalist to speak at Commencement

David Maraniss is to speak at this year’s Commencement, May 15. The journalist will also receive an honorary degree from the college, along with Pat Kelly ’77, former chairman of the board of trustees, and Michael Marsden (Dean, Emeritus).

Maraniss, who grew up in Madison, Wis., won a Pulitzer for his work in political journalism. Among his five acclaimed books is “First in His Class,” a highly praised biography of President Bill Clinton. In 1999, he hit the best-seller list again with “When Pride Still Mattered.” The biography of Vince Lombardi served as the source for the current Broadway hit “Lombardi.”

Performing arts groups celebrate milestone years

St. Norbert College Music Theatre marks its 50th summer season this year with productions of “Phantom of the Opera” and “Man of La Mancha.” And the St. Norbert Community Band closes out its 20th season with a concert in the Walter Theatre March 28.

Music Theatre was founded by Dudley Birder in 1962 to present Broadway musicals each summer using a cast of local performers. Since its first production, of “Little Mary Sunshine,” Music Theatre has presented a total of 76 productions in more than 750 performances. It is the oldest musical theatre organization in Wisconsin.

The St. Norbert community band presents two major concerts each year.

Graduation rates give St. Norbert top billing

Students graduate from St. Norbert College within four years at rates higher than at any other college in Wisconsin. And even when compared with schools in the neighboring states of Michigan and Illinois, the college is among the leaders in new tables published by The Education Trust. According to statistics gathered by the U.S. Department of Education, St. Norbert’s four-year graduation rate figures place it in top position compared to the 33 other colleges in Wisconsin.
Few experiences in academia can match the exuberance of a faculty member when a student displays unbridled enthusiasm for a project, or of a student when the learning experience becomes just plain fun.

That sense of nirvana is becoming more common with an increasing emphasis on faculty/student partnerships that has led to the establishment of the St. Norbert Collaborative: Center for Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities. The center’s goal is to provide support for students, faculty and staff at all levels of undergraduate research collaboration.

The opportunity for students to participate in research projects, present at conferences and even contribute to published articles as a listed author is a prized one at the undergraduate level.

“It gives students an in-depth perspective of what faculty members do outside of teaching,” comments Tynisha Meidl (Teacher Education). “There are other aspects to what it means to be a faculty member and engaged in scholarship. It starts to make sense to them; they see how engaged you are in relation to your passion.”

Projects currently underway span a wide range of academic disciplines, with some initiated by faculty members and some by students. The collaborations provide a differentiating factor for St. Norbert students interested in pursuing graduate education.

“The level of writing that’s needed is an unintended, but good, consequence,” Meidl says. “Particularly if you’re doing an article for publication, there are not many courses that can help students the way that writing for research can, particularly in the social sciences. They experience...
research methodology that they would not normally get in class.

“The students know it’s going to benefit them, particularly the ones going on to grad school. Having this type of experience is going to put them one step ahead. They do it because they want to do it, not because they have to.”

While the Collaborative, officially, is in its second year of operation, this academic year is the first with a budget large enough to fund initiatives such as research and travel needs. Some of the programs receive promotional assistance from the Collaborative, while funding funnels through alternate budgets such as Admissions.

“Our Collaborative advisory committee awards grants and, more importantly, discusses the philosophy of undergraduate research and how we can promote it even more at St. Norbert College,” explains John Pennington (English), director of undergraduate research. “By far the most popular component of our program is the Student Academic Travel Fund. This provides support for students to present their research at national and eventually international conferences.”

Ashley Ash ’10 experienced firsthand the multiple benefits of student/faculty collaboration during her final two years at St. Norbert. Currently a doctoral student in the physical therapy program at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Ash worked with David Bailey (Biology) on research involving a protein in the brain of zebra finches, thought to protect against damage from stress hormones.

She collected data and formulated a rough draft of what the data meant during her junior year, as an independent study course, and then spent her senior year working in the lab and putting together an article for possible publication. She also attended the Society for Neuroscience national conference in Chicago and presented some of the research.

“That was a very valuable experience,” Ash says of the conference. “For me to be there as an undergrad was unique, considering most attendees have graduate degrees and even post-graduate degrees. I was one of the younger people there.”

Ash and Bailey submitted the article to a scientific journal immediately after her graduation. The journal accepted the article after some revisions, and Ash signed a contributor’s agreement in November as the first author on the paper.

“It made a normal term paper seem tame by comparison,” Ash says. “This was something I became interested in and it started to mean a lot to me. It was stressful at times, but in the end it was rewarding and worth it. I received a full-tuition scholarship to UW-La Crosse, and the school mentioned my research experience was something they considered. In talking to people here, no one has done anything like that.”

Watching Ash progress through the experience was fulfilling for Bailey, as well.

“Ashley’s work was the first done here in which a student of mine presented at a national meeting and wrote a paper accepted for national publication,” Bailey says. “I presented at that same conference in 1996, and I remember how proud I felt of the work I did. Now to be on the other end of things 14 years later is really cool. The satisfaction I get is seeing my students work through the scientific method.”

Megan King ’12 began her St. Norbert career as an elementary education major before switching to sociology
following her sophomore year. However, the five weeks she spent as a student teacher in the Green Bay Public School District exposed her to the cultural and language diversity that teachers deal with on a daily basis.

She jumped at the opportunity to collaborate when education professors Bola Delano-Oriarian and Meidl, along with instructor Debra Faase, approached her to assist them with a project in that same field: researching articles and conducting field interviews to identify, examine and evaluate instructional literacy approaches teachers use to meet the needs of diverse learners.

“The first thing that came to my mind was how beneficial this would be for my future,” King says. “It works hand-in-hand with what I want to do in terms of looking into global public health issues.”

While King is getting an opportunity to develop survey questions and decode data in the field that most students don’t experience until grad school, her contributions are also valuable for her faculty partners, on multiple levels.

“We’ll use these findings to take back into our own classroom to better prepare our St. Norbert students for getting into the classroom [as teachers],” Delano-Oriarian explains. “We’re looking at this issue at the local level, and we’re hoping to help students get jobs right in this area. Megan has re-energized me. She’s one of those students that I will miss when she graduates.”

Ravi Agarwal (Computer Science) and his student, Sergii Bilokhatnuik ’12, are collaborating on a project to investigate the Android phone’s capabilities and limitations, developing a multi-level authentication application to enhance the phone’s security. The Android’s open-source platform allows developers around the world to work on these challenges using the common Java language.

“Sergii gets exposure to doing some meaningful research which he would not otherwise have at this level,” says Agarwal, who has been working with the Android operating system for two years. “We’re creating a model for future projects.”

“We both have goals we’re pursuing,” adds Bilokhatnuik, a Ukraine native. “We’re working on each other’s portfolio. It will look good on my grad-school application, so we both should benefit from it.”

Biology majors Isabella Benassi ’12 and Izzy Rauguth ’11 will be co-authors on a poster presentation submitted to a national cancer conference in April under the guidance of Russ Feirer (Biology). The project is an extension of work undertaken by Feirer while on sabbatical at University of Wisconsin Hospitals in Madison, Wis., last fall.

The research looks at the effects of resveratrol, a compound which inhibits the growth of tumors in mice, in combination with additional inhibitors. The students maintained cells in the lab during the first year of the project, feeding them every three days.

“By the second year, students start to make suggestions,” Feirer says. “We have lab meetings every Wednesday where we meet to talk strategy and decide next steps. I lead, but they are group discussions. The students get so much more invested in their field, and they feel a bit of ownership.”

The enhanced lab knowledge and research experience provides additional resources for students as they prepare for graduate programs.

“I went into it to put the things I was learning in class to hands-on experience, and that’s exactly what I got,” says Rauguth, who plans to pursue certification as a physician’s assistant. “I was interested in going to a medical professional school, and I knew research was something that older students will have had. In my [grad school] entrance essays, I referred to the research experience I have, and schools want to talk about that.”

“This is one of the things I love about going to school here,” adds Benassi, who plans to attend dental school. “You can get involved outside of the classroom at such a greater level. When

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This poster advertised an installation, the result of an artistic collaboration between Matt Bougie ’10 and the Rev. Jim Neilsen, O.Praem., ’88.
you’re doing collaboration and maintaining a cell line, you have to actually learn what you’re doing. It’s a whole ‘nother level of learning.’

Occasionally a student will come along with an idea that catches the attention of a faculty member. That was the case with Wolfgang Grassl (Business Administration) and two students from Kazakhstan, the former Soviet republic that sits midway between China and Europe.

Yerzhan Nauruzbayev ‘13, a former exchange student at West De Pere High School, began formulating ideas along with Jamilia Sauranbayeva ‘12, on how to leverage their country’s strategic location to spur economic growth beyond the oil and gas industries.

“I would not have otherwise discovered such a project,” Grassl admits. “Now my function is to help them move it along, applying some economic theory to the analysis part of the project, and finding a suitable conference and publication venue for their work.”

“The government is trying to diversify the economy as much as they can, and we might contribute to that,” Nauruzbayev says. “It would be great for a U.S. company like Schneider National to enter the market before any competition.”

The Green Bay–based transportation and logistics firm known for its orange trucks was the first non-Chinese company to start trucking operations in China. Nauruzbayev met Dan Van Alstine ‘81, senior vice president and general manager of dedicated services at Schneider, at a lunch event and broached the subject to him.

Schneider currently has no appetite for expanding its operations beyond China and the Czech Republic, but Nauruzbayev’s passion left an impression on Van Alstine.

“His energy is infectious,” Van Alstine says. “He’s going to be successful at whatever he chooses. If we had the desire to expand into Kazakhstan, he would be part of the strategy.”

Not every collaboration results in a presentation or publication aimed at a specific target audience. Brian Pirman (Art) and graphic design major Leivur Djurhuus ‘12 are working on a series of computer-generated panels for exhibition in the Godschalk Gallery. Using the “exquisite corpse” concept—a technique of collective assembly first developed by the Surrealists—the pair builds on each other’s work by trading Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator files.

“The thing I like about (this collaboration) is the learning goes both ways,” Pirman says. “Leivur has a pretty good knowledge base regarding software, so not only will he learn from me certain things within the program, but I stand to learn from him as well. We don’t know what it’s going to look like until we hang them, or even the order we’ll hang them. There’s going to be an element of surprise.”

Since the pair is using their favorite art history movements to create the finished work, their individual preferences will shape the project’s ultimate feel.

“I go back farther in art history to the Renaissance, while for Brian it’s more contemporary, modern art,” states Djurhuus, a native of the Faeroe Islands who chose St. Norbert in part out of his allegiance to the Green Bay Packers. “It’s very exciting because once it’s hanging in the gallery, people are going to learn something. We’re hoping people are going to stop and look for a while and not just walk past.”

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**Productive partnerships**

Among current research projects on campus can be found collaborations addressing:

- **Dune formation in Northeast Wisconsin.** “Analysis of dune formation periods and the reconstruction of paleo-wind direction will be used to test computer-model reconstructions of climate change and drought during the Dust Bowl in the early 1900s.” Sarah Day ‘11, Rebecca Schmeisser (Geology) and Nelson Ham (Geology).

- **Usage of social media.** “We examine grade differences among students at small liberal arts colleges based on social media usage. We also examine the role of smart phone ownership in social media usage and suggest options for professors and schools on how to manage these tools.” Andie Burkland ‘11, Stephanie Weiss ‘11, Amy Vandenberg (Business Administration) and Matthew Stollak (Business Administration).

- **The endocrine function in birds.** “A project to identify bacteria in the zebra finch gut, as well as to assess the effects of specific hormones and gut bacteria on endocrine function.” Blake Bashor ‘11 and David Hunnicutt (Biology).

- **Career choices of recent graduates.** “We survey new graduates to find out who is in graduate school, who has found employment and where, who is still searching. We use this data to help current students who are exploring possible career paths in their turn.” Amy Diestler ‘14 and Mandy Nycz (Career Services).

- **Locally inhabiting algae.** “We study a green algae that releases a compound that stimulates the growth of freshwater diatoms. The results will represent a significant contribution to the field of aquatic chemical ecology.” Alison Schaefer ‘12 and David Poister (Chemistry and Environmental Science).

- **Reconstructions of gender and sexual identity in contemporary Spanish literature.** “The strong contemporary presence of Spanish nihilism in more recent publications demonstrates how conflicting social paradigms affect the goals and mindsets of a technologically advanced, consumerism-driven society.” Ryan Reed ‘11 and Brad Ellis (Modern Languages & Literatures).
A student worker post gave Paige Caulum ’11 the chance to work closely with Karlyn Crowley (English, Women’s and Gender Studies), as student and professor prepped Crowley’s new manuscript for publication. Here, Caulum reflects on the experience.

It wasn’t until I received my first task via e-mail, with instructions to review and edit the Works Cited, that I learned the topic of Dr. Crowley’s study: “Feminism’s New Age: Gender, Appropriation, and the Afterlife of Essentialism.” Not having realized this was a full-length book, I was surprised to download a 245-page document with 20 pages dedicated to Works Cited.

Dr. Crowley was on sabbatical, and I had started my new position upon my return from a semester abroad. Beginning the project this way — without prior knowledge of it, without being able to meet with the author, and literally starting at the end of the book — was intriguing, to say the least.

People would ask me what the book was about, and from what I had gathered from the Works Cited entries, I would tell them it somehow involved Native Americans, Oriental diets and Oprah. The task of formatting the Works Cited page sounds mundane, but I found myself enjoying the work and learning the intricacies of MLA style. Another interesting task I completed for Dr. Crowley was generating the index. I often used to wonder who it was who determined what terms or topics readers might want to look up, and found every occasion on which that subject appeared throughout the work. In academia, I discovered, that task is often undertaken by student assistants.

Dr. Crowley and I were both new to indexing, so we referred to the one-page list of instructions from the State University of New York (SUNY) Press and a chapter in the Chicago Manual of Style, as well as some tips from experienced professionals. The task required a meticulous reading of the work, all the while trying to determine what readers might expect to find in its index. This skill will certainly be one of which I can boast on my résumé.

The most exciting task assigned was to copy-edit the manuscript — a true test of whether my dream job of editor at a book-publishing firm was really the path for me.

As I devoted the next couple of weeks to the task, I was excited to discover that I indeed loved the work. An examination of the current status of the women’s movement, Dr. Crowley’s book on New Age spirituality and feminism comments on important sociological and political matters. I had read articles and other works published by faculty in the past, but this deep investment in one manuscript led me to draw links between academic life on our campus and the “outside” world.

Dr. Crowley’s relationship to me had been as teacher, but copy-editing her work of scholarship gave me a better understanding of the connections between my own role at St. Norbert and my role in society as a whole.
In late June of each summer, I pack up my Springbar tent, rock hammer, anvils, GPS, collecting bags and other field gear and drive to Lost Cabin, Wyoming, to look for fossils. Lost Cabin is located about 12 miles outside a ghost town called Armiito. The most interesting, and perhaps most unnerving, aspect of the drive to the field camp comes over the last 10 miles, when you start to see the Poison Gas signs. There are windsocks mounted atop poles so that, if the colorless, odorless gas is accidentally released from nearby oil drilling operations, you know which way to run.

Once we arrive in camp, tucked in a flat area of the Wind River Basin near Buck Springs Quarry, we forget about the
poison gas and worry about staying clear of the rattlesnakes and scorpions whose territory we are about to invade.

We time our arrival to match that of my colleague and friend, Richard Stucky, a vertebrate paleontology curator from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

Lance (my youngest son) and I have been prospecting for fossils in the Wind River Basin with Richard since 2005. Eventually, a number of volunteers, high school students, other geologists and paleontologists, and graduate students will arrive. And, one week out of two, we have a camp cook; truly a luxury!

The roughest part of fieldwork (rattlesnakes and scorpions aside) is the lack of running water. But after a couple of days, everyone is in the same state. Plus, you can get an early start in the field when you don’t have to wait for everyone to shower! We do go into town to shower, wash clothes, and get groceries once every five to seven days.

It was during a poster session at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology meetings that I first met Richard. I was reading, with great interest, his poster about Buck Springs Quarry. He was talking about finding large numbers of ischyromyid rodents, one of my areas of expertise. We started talking and, at the end of the conversation, he invited me to join him in the field sometime. Richard walked away; I thought about this offer for five minutes, ran after him and said that if he was serious, I would be out the following summer. I haven’t missed a summer since.

The study of the Wind River Basin fossils – plants and animals – can serve as a proxy to learn more about how future climate changes may affect current flora and fauna. Why Lost Cabin? Well, in its rocks of the Eocene period we find fossils of the warmest period in Earth’s history that we have on record. The rodents seem to be small in size and high in diversity at this time. As the climate cooled, the rodents became less diverse and larger.

It is very exciting to spend two weeks exchanging ideas on topics like the effect of climate change on past organisms, and how paleobotany (fossil plant studies) can inform our understanding of patterns of change in mammals. As the only paleontologist on the faculty at St. Norbert, I particularly relish this opportunity to reconnect with colleagues in the field and get my scholarly energies recharged. Time in the field is time to reflect. Each day is filled with exploration, discovery and survival.

Collaboration is the key to successful scholarly activity. It is chance encounters and conversations with friends of friends that have spurred my own efforts in this area.

My South American rodent project began after John Fleagle offered me help on a shuttle bus to the airport. We were both leaving the annual paleontology meetings in Kansas and I was juggling a four-month-old, luggage, a diaper bag and a car seat. Three months later, I was flying to Argentina with John, distinguished professor of anatomical sciences at the State University of New York in Stony Brook, to study fossil rodents in Buenos Aires.

Gregg Gunnell, of the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology, is another valued colleague. My first Wyoming field camp experiences at South Pass, Wyoming, were with Gregg and Bill Bartels, a geologist at Albion College.

My collaboration with Gregg has made it possible for me to borrow specimens from the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology, and I spent my fall 1996 sabbatical at U of M.

My more recent experiences in Wyoming with the Lost Cabin field research crew have led in turn to the development of two of my current projects, both of which include another kind of collaboration: that with my students.

With Kim Keil ’10 and Kate Casey ’12, I am working on an extension of a project I had already started, to revise the alpha taxonomy – the first step in naming the species – of Thisbemys. This new phase is exciting because I was the first one to discover lower molars of this species.

While I am not allowed to bring any of the fossils that I find back to Green Bay, I have been able to increase my sample size by borrowing the specimens once they have been catalogued. So, I have about 300 rodent jaws and teeth in my office.

The rodents that I study have a combination of primitive and advanced features to the crown pattern. The number of cusps and rhomboidal molar shape are primitive. The presence and arrangement of accessory crenulations, uniquely shaped incisors and variable jaw dimensions make each group I study distinct.

Sara Coursin ’12 and Ashley Erdmann ’12 are working with me on a second project, a description of the biodiversity of the sciuravid rodents. This family of rodents is closely related to the Ischyromyids, the first rodents to show up in the fossil record, about 53 million years ago. This project, too, has taken an exciting turn. Scientists had combined two previously named species into one. With new specimens, I am able to show that the two originally named species are in fact valid.

Last summer, staff at Yale Peabody Museum gave me access to the type specimens, the original specimens collected in the 1800s, so that I could determine the characteristics and size of each species as originally named. The collections are located in the museum’s basement and I was issued my own set of keys to the gates I needed to pass through to access the fossils. Once there, I set up my microscope and began taking measurements. It was an intellectual thrill to look at the actual specimens found in the 1800s, the ones scientists originally based the taxonomic names on: something like meeting the author of your favorite book and seeing the original notes for their manuscript – so cool!
As continents go, it doesn’t get any higher, drier or windier than Antarctica. Ice covers 98 percent of it to a depth averaging more than a mile, and yet it’s technically a desert, getting less than 2 inches of precipitation per year. Such a place brings people together simply as a matter of survival. But the weeks Tim Flood (Geology) and Nicole Bader ’11 spent on the continent during winter break involved teamwork much deeper than that. Flood and Bader, his student, traveled to the planet’s most remote location to assist with the climate-change research of Kathy Licht ’92, a former student of Flood’s who is now associate professor of earth sciences at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

As principal investigator on a National Science Foundation grant, Licht is mapping the movement of two glaciers during the past 500,000 years. Bader will analyze the field samples collected as she begins pursuit of her master’s degree under Licht this fall.

Naming high points of the experience, Bader says: “My current professor was my field assistant! He helped me to put the till and pebbles into bags, label the bags, and even carry them around the moraine. I have all of my fieldwork done for next year at IUPUI – and I’m still an undergrad.”

Licht, whose own first field experiences included research in Costa Rica and Belize with Flood, says, “Without Tim’s guidance, I would never be where I am today, so I am very pleased to try to continue his legacy and pay it forward by providing new and hopefully exciting educational opportunities to students.”

Along with ice samples, the team collected striking memories of the trip. The excerpts on these pages are taken from their blog.
Outfitting Antarctica is an adventure. At the Clothing Distribution Center in Christchurch, New Zealand, everyone is issued a Big Red parka rated for 50 degrees below zero, white ultra-cold-weather “bunny boots” and cold-weather bibs, mittens, socks and a face mask. During the five-hour flight to Antarctica via C17 cargo plane, the bunny boots, parka and bibs must be worn. Putting on all the clothes in one’s closet might provide an idea of what wearing the cold-weather gear feels like.

McMurdo Station, the American base of operations in Antarctica, is located about 40 miles offshore on Ross Island. It takes an hour’s ride on a bus known as “Ivan the Terrible” to reach McMurdo from the Pegasus airstrip, 15 miles away on the Ross Ice Shelf. During the summer – December to February – the temperatures around McMurdo are mostly above zero. What does get you is the Katabatic winds, which flow off the higher Antarctic Plateau like water over a waterfall. Wind speeds of 40 mph are common. Safety is a top priority. Any group away from McMurdo must check in to “ops” every morning and every evening. Five minutes late for check-in, and Search and Rescue (SAR) is notified; 20 minutes late, and SAR is mobilized.

We left McMurdo for a base camp called CTAM (Central TransAntarctic Mountains) about 400 miles from the South Pole. Then the five of us – four geologists and a mountaineer – headed to our remote camp, located on an ice flow about a six-hour

snowmobile ride from CTAM. The ice there was about a third of a mile thick, and the nearest rock, a mountain peak sticking up through the ice, was more than a mile away. Our camp consisted of five mountain tents, two teepee-like Scott tents and one cooking tent that looked like a Conestoga wagon without wheels. Cooking on two Coleman stoves was by rotation, not invitation, yet all meals were surprisingly good. Hunger and cold do wonders for the taste of food. The biggest camp chore was getting water. An area near the cook tent was flagged off for procuring snow, which was shoveled into a large garbage bag and hauled into the tent to keep the water pots stocked. The never-ending process allowed for no spare water, which meant personal hygiene was performed infrequently, by baby-wipe.

From our remote camp, we traveled one to two hours by snowmobile to our field site each day. On three occasions, a helicopter from CTAM took us to less accessible field areas. Typically, we would spend 12 hours in the field, come “home” and cook, then head off to our tents to sleep. As a team, we are trying to figure out the movement of two glaciers. This determination will serve as a proxy for global climate change over that same time interval. This work required detailed field sampling and will require labor-intensive laboratory analysis. We anticipate several publications in national and international journals over the next few years. If the science is good, we will hopefully raise more questions than we answer.

Kathy Licht ’92 says: “The goal of our research project is to develop a record of changes in the East Antarctic ice sheet over time. The age of the deposits we sampled will be determined using cosmogenic exposure age dating. Certain isotopes build up in particular minerals, proportional to how long they have been exposed at the earth’s surface. It’s a little like a ‘suntan’ meter. The longer a person is exposed to the sun, the darker the tan. The longer a rock has been exposed to cosmic rays, the more isotopes build up in the minerals.”
What do happy couples do to stay happy?

“It’s the little things.”

“Talk, chat, converse, develop a private code.”

“Be stubborn about making your marriage strong, healthy and happy. Then do whatever it takes to keep it that way.”

This advice comes from “What Happy Couples Do” by Carol (Sessler) Bruess ’90. It took more than luck for her to create a successful 19-year marriage to St. Norbert classmate Brian Bruess ’90, one that began in 1991 on Friday the 13th. They work as hard at making their marriage successful as they do at their vocations in higher education.

The couple combined relationship-making with graduate school at Ohio University, both with full scholarships and teaching assistantships, and then found jobs in higher education central to their shared passion. Carol landed at the University of St. Thomas and Brian at St. Catherine University: two schools no more than a mile apart in St. Paul, Minn.

With master’s and doctorate degrees in interpersonal communication from Ohio, Carol is a professor in St. Thomas’ department of communication and journalism. Brian’s master’s and doctorate degrees in college student personnel from Ohio led him to a position as vice president for enrollment management and student affairs at St. Kate’s.

Their years of study and research, along with their passion for the energy of higher education, infused their dream jobs. Working at Catholic liberal arts colleges in the Twin Cities is ideal. St. Norbert mentors like their communication professor Carol Cortez (Communication and Media Studies) and the late Thomas Faase...
Caroline was her ability to constantly translate her research to flourish. "We have a shared community. We're living our dream," Carol notes. They have similar missions and visions, but are distinctive with their own niches. Brian says, "They need each other to grow. They enjoy the comfort of participating in both institutions' challenge for both is to "create ethical and wise communicators, moral leaders with an eye toward the common good," Carol says.

"There is something palpably different here that is more attractive to us," Brian says of St. Kate's and St. Thomas. "Liberal arts values and mission drive the educational experience."

The two universities are not as competitive as some think, Carol notes. They have similar missions and visions, but are distinctive with their own niches. Brian says, "They need each other to flourish. We have a shared community. We're living our dream."

**Sharing intimate rituals**

Embracing the cliché that little things do count is crucial to the Bruesses' successful relationship. For example, in order for Carol to get sufficient sleep, they purchased a memory-foam bed, keeping Brian from disturbing "Mama Bear." He grinds the coffee beans in the bathroom where it's quieter and cleans the kitchen counter before she comes downstairs; she makes sure they read the paper together over coffee, sharing moments of intimacy to stay connected.

The title of Carol's dissertation, "'Bare-Chested Hugs' and 'Tough-Guy's Night': An inductive examination of the form and function of interpersonal rituals in marriage and adult friendship," indicates that her qualitative and quantitative academic research, involving endless interviews and piles of in-depth questionnaires, leads to practical applications.

"How to create meaning together in that moment of intimacy is the point of rituals," Carol says.

While Brian thinks globally and sees the big picture, what he loves about Carol is her ability to constantly translate her research into accessible life messages. "I love to listen to the rich narratives of these couples," she says.

Carol's family communication classes at St. Thomas reflect her passion for connecting academic research to real life.

"When I learn something new, I pass that along to my students. It might be about friendship or using nicknames. My students love my classes. They want to be there. They want to be close to what's real to them."

One of Carol's passions is the pedagogy of service learning, or connecting academic scholarship with practical experience. She co-led a panel last year at the Central States Communication Association Conference in Cincinnati. Her topic was "Service-Learning in the Study Abroad/Away-From-Campus Context," focusing on projects in Hawaiian schools.

In July 2010 Carol also presented the peer-reviewed paper on "What do social and citizen responsibility 'look like' on our campus?" This was given at the Vatican-sponsored conference "Power to Transform the World: Media and Communication Programs in Catholic Higher Education."

**Melding learning and values**

For the Bruesses, creating environments that encourage learning in college is a measure of success and, Brian says, "our relationship is a constant conversation on what we are doing, what we can do, to achieve that kind of success."

Brian's demanding job keeps him at St. Kate's some nights and weekends to help settle disputes or attend student talent shows, sports events, picnics and church services.

"The challenge is, how do you live the missions of these two universities in our complex world?" he says. "That's what is so compelling in value-based education."

He said in an article in the November issue of "The Catholic Spirit" that the goal of Catholic institutions of higher learning goes beyond merely the maintenance of one's Catholicity. "Both our institutions have shaped a curriculum that is integrated with the Catholic intellectual tradition and the principles of Catholic social teaching. Our goal is something much more beautiful than just keeping someone Catholic. Our goal is to deepen and enrich."

That goal plays out in their family life, as everyone works together to make the family strong, Carol says. That involves son Tony, 14, and daughter Gracie, 10.

Sometimes, Brian admits, Carol gets too academic at home, and so "we have to throw the penalty flag." When Carol says, "Research shows …" someone will invariably interrupt, ending the sentence with something funny such as, "that eating Cheerios is good for you." They use this tactic to encourage their children. Playfully telling son Tony "research shows that eating dinner together makes for a happier family" often gets him to the table faster.

The Bruesses often turn to others for advice. "John Gottman is a researcher who inspires me," Carol says, noting his rule that a couple needs five positive interactions for every negative one. Conflicts arise in all intimate relationships, the Bruesses admit, but they resolve theirs as adults, assuring that each ultimately feels valued.

Surprisingly, Brian does not buy Carol gifts or bring her flowers. Instead, Carol says, she prefers he wash the car or clean the bathroom to show his love. Besides, Brian laughs, he seldom gets it right anyway, and finds more joy in seeing what Carol buys for herself. They call this "relational currency." To Brian, the baseline of a marriage is three-fold: 1) amplify the other person, 2) know that no relationship is perfect, and 3) know you are never finished.

At the threshold of midlife, they want different ways of being, of slowing down after chasing their dreams for 20 years since leaving St. Norbert. "I'd like to be more reflective, to be more in the moment, and to have been in that mode sooner," Brian says.
Eight sets of twins and three-quarters of a set of quadruplets; the Class of 2014, the college’s largest ever, is a record-breaker in more ways than one.

From academics to athletics to work, transitioning to college as part of a set of multiples over the course of fall semester has been a shared experience for Kari and Meghan Braatz, Cameron and Christopher Doran, James and Richard Gluth, Michael and Morgan Heim, Jaclyn and Jolene Kerner, Hayley and Rachel Nagengast, Amber and Ashley Saskowski, Miranda and Sarah Wallenfang, and Liz, Nicole and Stephanie Hietpas.

“It is nice to not be the only set of siblings on campus,” says Liz Hietpas, whose sisters also attend St. Norbert. The three women are 75 percent of a set of quadruplets. Each made her college decision independently. Their brother, Michael, is attending the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Academics helped in that decision. (The Class of 2014 also has the highest academic profile ever.) For Stephanie and Nicole, the education program was a good fit, and nursing major Liz had heard about the Bellin partnership program.

Identical twins James and Richard Gluth almost didn’t go to the same college. James changed his mind “at the last minute.” But both enjoy the experience of attending together. “It’s just like having another friend,” says James.

The two enrolled in the same American history course during fall semester and both work at Phil’s, the restaurant/store located in the Campus Center.

Though they admit they’ve pulled it off several times in the past, the two have not yet switched identities here at St. Norbert.

“It might happen again,” Richard warns. “I don’t think we could pull it off in class – our professor is pretty good about telling us apart.”

“Maybe I’ll call you in to sub for me if I can’t go in to work someday,” James jokes.

Of the nine sets of multiples, only Amber and Ashley Saskowski have chosen to room together. The identical twins share a room in Sensenbrenner.

The two women decided that they should be able to handle the proximity, after years of experience.

“We’ve gotten in some fights – they last a day or so,” Amber says. “That’s not any different than being home, though,” Ashley adds.

They plan to live together again next year – ideally, as part of a group of eight in Michels Hall that includes the Hietpas sisters.

“We have it planned out so that no two sisters will end up rooming together, though,” says Ashley.

The two both plan to major in political science and minor in Spanish, though Ashley is pursuing a second major in international studies as well. They will take two classes together during this semester: a Spanish course and a comparative politics course.

“We didn’t plan on it – it just happened to work into our schedule that way,” Amber explains.

“We’ll have to sit with a lot of people between us. And we’ll make a point to dress differently. I’ll scrub it one day, and you can dress up, and then we’ll switch on the next,” Ashley tells Amber.

During the fall season, the Saskowski sisters played women’s soccer, and Meghan Braatz and Liz and Stephanie Hietpas ran cross-country. Morgan Heim is playing women’s basketball this season.

Though the Green Knight cross-country team is “really close” Liz says, “It was nice to have Stephanie on the team as well because I always knew that she would be there for me when I was struggling – all of my teammates were, but she is my sister and I will always turn to her for guidance and help.”

“We both have someone to train with in the off seasons,” Stephanie adds.

In the spring, Liz and Stephanie will run track with both the Braatz sisters and Jaclyn and Jolene Kerner.

Meghan and Kari agreed that there is no sibling rivalry to be found between them. Kari says, “She runs distance and I’m a sprinter,” “… so we’re really not that competitive.” It’s Meghan who finishes the sentence.
Learn anew with

A Day at St. Norbert

Fascinating lectures, lively debate, good company … and no exams! A Day at St. Norbert offers all the intellectual stimulation of college, for one day only.

Set for May 7, A Day at St. Norbert – formerly Alumni College – welcomes alumns and the public to campus for lectures by distinguished faculty members; a luncheon with entertainment by Knights on Broadway; and a keynote address by University of St. Thomas professor Carol Bruess ’90. (Read more about Carol on page 18.)

Attendees craft their own schedules, choosing from 12 topics offered during three 75-minute sessions. Course titles range from Photoshop to Fullness of Life.

In the former, Brian Pirman (Art) will demonstrate the popular photo-editing software, helping participants experiment with their own digital photos. In the latter, Julie Massey ’87 (Faith, Learning and Vocation) will lead an interactive discussion of three questions key to our personal callings: What am I good at? What am I passionate about? What is needed from me?

Some lectures connect to current events. Retired physics professor Takamasa Takahashi will consider the environments of Earth, Venus and Mars, presenting a cosmic perspective on climate. Likewise, Tim Flood (Geology) will share details of recent fieldwork in Antarctica investigating the impact of climate change. And David Duquette (Philosophy) will discuss dimensions of freedom and their practical implications. For the literary-minded, Stephen Westergan (Humanities) looks at the descriptions of heaven and hell in Dante’s “Divine Comedy,” pondering what they say about life after death, as well as our lives on earth. Those interested in competent communication in a diverse world will find guidance from James Neuliep (Communication and Media Studies) as he covers subtleties and benefits of intercultural communication.

And as alumni gather with friends old and new, it’s only natural that Paul Wadell (Religious Studies) should explore the gift of friendship, reflecting on why we become good, through time spent with good persons.

For more information or to register for A Day at St. Norbert, call the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at (920) 403-3022, or visit the event website, www.snc.edu/alumni/dayatsnc/.

Favorite caf meal? Come back and try it again

Do you remember that favorite, not-to-be-missed meal you couldn’t wait to see on the caf menu? Was it chicken strips, cheesy-broccoli rice or Chef Dan’s chili? Or maybe the selections at the omelet, salad, sandwich or baked potato bars? What about the famous make-your-own-waffle station? (It was always worth the wait in the long, long line.) Or the frozen cookie dough?

Breakfast, lunch or dinner, we want to know your favorites so we can serve them during Party at the Caf on May 7 – right after A Day at St. Norbert. This evening of cocktails, food, music and memories will help us bid farewell to the dining experience at the Sensenbrenner Memorial Union. The building is shortly to undergo transformation into the new, larger Michels Commons; see page 6.

Cast your vote by choosing from the delectables listed above, or name your own preferred meal in our online ballot at www.snc.edu/go/cafparty. The top four dishes will comprise the menu for Party at the Caf – your chance to relive caf dining one last time!
Bill Hyland (Center for Norbertine Studies) is serving as editorial board president for the book series “Premonstratensian Texts and Studies.” Produced in conjunction with Cistercian Publications and Liturgical Press, the series presents primary works and scholarly studies of the order.

Its first volume offers an English translation of “Anticimenon,” a treatment of the issues dividing Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians—and a call for unity in diversity—written by Premontre Anselm of Havelberg. In his preface, Hyland notes that translators refer to the 12th century author as “Norbert’s most devoted, proximate and successful disciple, and most articulate apologist.”

The series’ second volume, an English translation of “Spirituality of the Premontreans: The Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries,” comes out in April. Cistercian Publications calls this post-World War II work by the Rev. François Petit, O.Praem., “the definitive treatment of the early centuries of the order of canons founded by Norbert of Xanten.”

Fred Schmidt (Music, Emeritus) has been named conductor of the Rogue Valley (Ore.) Symphonic Band. The band, an all-volunteer select group of musicians from southern Oregon and northern California, has performed more than 100 concerts around Oregon since its inception in 1988. Schmidt has planned at least three major concerts to continue to build the audience.

“Holy City on the Nile: Omdurman during the Mahdiya 1885-1898” (2011), by Robert Kramer (History), has been published by Markus Wiener Publishers. The book examines life in a Sudanese holy city at the end of the 19th century, an era of upheaval and millenial excitement during which many Muslims believed the world was coming to an end. Kramer researched the history and politics of the Middle East and spent years in Egypt and Sudan, including his time as a Fulbright Scholar in Khartoum, Sudan, from 1986-87. A specialist on Islamic Africa, he also lived in Ghana for six months in 1990, researching the practice of Islam in West Africa.

Rebecca Schmeisser (Geology) presented at the Geological Society of America fall conference in Denver. She discussed the discovery of the nearly complete skeleton of an early reptile in southern Utah.

Robert Hoffman (Education, Emeritus) has been named a knight of the French Legion of Honor, France’s highest decoration, for his work in liberating the country during World War II. Hoffman, a staff sergeant, fought in France for five months with the U.S. Army 90th Infantry Division and was captured near the German border, spending another five months in German prisoner-of-war camps.

Rehaul.com recently profiled Matthew Stollak (Business Administration) as an “HR Star” for his work in teaching human resources classes. Blogger and consultant Lance Haun praised Stollak’s use of social media, including the St. Norbert professor’s own blog at True Faith HR.

Faculty members recently shared their experience piloting online courses at an on-campus forum on “Learning in the Digital Age.” They included John Frohlig (Mathematics), Gratzia Villarroel (Political Science), Wolfgang Grassl (Business Administration) and Scott Kirst (Teacher Education).

The need to integrate modern tools with time-proven pedagogy to match the learning styles and expectations of Millennial students is prompting ongoing conversation on campus. Its focus: the use of online/hybrid courses in keeping with the college’s mission and identity.

Kevin Hutchinson (Communications) invited Bob Atwell, CEO of Nicolet National Bank in Green Bay, to address his class in Organizational Communication. This senior colloquium focuses on organizational climate, culture, ethics and leadership. Atwell and Mike Daniels ’86, Nicolet COO and president, are the bank’s founders. Daniels recently received the college’s 2010 Distinguished Achievement Award for business.

Atwell discussed the power of shared experience between customers, employees and owners, and its impact on Nicolet’s community-oriented culture and bottom line.

A labor of love

Beth Blahnik (College Advancement) spent 10 days on a service trip to an orphanage in Guatemala this fall. While there, Blahnik cooked, helped repair the building, mentored the children and offered outreach in nearby communities.

Blahnik wrote in her journal: “I cannot remember a time when my body felt this strong or this fatigued. There are always babies to feed and hold, children to hug, soccer games to be played, food to be cooked, dishes to be washed . . . that’s all before noon!” The orphanage functions like a family home with rules and shared responsibilities. Blahnik wrote, “They are expected to treat each other with love and kindness, which is evidenced by all the children’s interactions with each other and with us.”
I was in prison, and you came to me

For me this relationship has been a spiritual journey, as it has challenged me to look deep into others to find what I believe to be the face of God. Thinking about the tradition of the Church, which values all life from conception to natural death, I am drawn to look into my friend’s face and simply see a good man who has made mistakes.

Much to others’ surprise, my relationship with my friend at Angola (home of “the bloodiest prison in America”) has been deeply rewarding, and I look at him now as one of my best friends. Letters are exchanged about twice a month, and we have built a truly mutual relationship where we are both supporting and present for one another.

It feels very rewarding to see how he is able to recall things that I have dealt with in my life and inquire as to how I am doing. I believe very strongly that had I entered into this relationship with a desire only to help him, the relationship would be essentially flawed.

I started this relationship on the evening before the 2006 mid-term election, which included a referendum about the death penalty in Wisconsin. The discussion around the death penalty troubled me and many other students, which led us to think about how we could be more involved.

It has not only been a blessing to have this new friend; it has also been a humbling reminder of the inhumane conditions in which the imprisoned (particularly those on death row) live.

Many people have questioned my feelings toward those on death row, and it has been a consistent effort on my part to remind others that in no way do I endorse any crime. But this friendship is deeply rooted in the ideals of Sr. Helen Prejean, whose work was made widely known though the movie “Dead Man Walking.” She challenges us to see others as “worth more than our greatest mistakes.”

My trip to Louisiana, my second, challenged me to reflect about the blessing of friendship. We shared meals and enjoyed three full days of good conversation, ranging from faith and family to the NFL playoffs.

In a most serendipitous moment, I ran into a man with whom two years earlier I had prayed and done service through the Community of Sant’Egidio. At that time, I was studying in Rome as a part of St. Norbert’s study-abroad program. Together, we have made plans to return to Angola in the coming fall to visit our respective friends.
An image of her father praying in his barn led Elizabeth Groshek ‘11 on an exploration of family farming, community and photography.

A photographic journey into her community became the senior project of art major Elizabeth Groshek ‘11, who chose to document the dairy farmers around her family home near Wittenberg, Wis. Members of that same community traveled to the opening reception for an exhibit of her work in the Godschalx Gallery last December.

Groshek says: “I believe the series stands not only as a commentary on the older farming generation, but [also] on the ways that we are all interconnected. The members of my community are connected through the church, the parish, the land, our ancestry – we are an agrarian culture. “It’s the essence of what the college community refers to as communio – living as part of a greater community.”

Groshek says she has always been moved and inspired by the steadfastness of her father. His unquestioning faith and his ability to take on physical demands day in and day out have had a profound impact on the way she lives her life. “It is his image, captured unbeknownst in a moment of prayer, that stands at the center of the series. In many ways this photo shares the sentiment of ‘The Angelus’ – my father … in the environment that, for him, is the natural context for both his spiritual and physical being. This image was the starting point of a photographic journey into my community.”
Katie Lange ’12 and Stephen Correia (Teacher Education) presented their project on the Yellowstone Trail at the Wisconsin Association for Middle Level Education conference last November.

Lange worked with Correia on a series of field-tested middle school lessons and electronic textbook pages on the historic highway.

Knights on Broadway’s David Gusloff ’11 sang at the Milwaukee Theatre after winning an online audition contest. He joined “Singing with the Broadway Stars” as part of producer Neil Berg’s “100 Years of Broadway” show.

LSE Leadership Development Coordinator Anna Czarnik-Neimeyer ’11 and Nancy Mathias (Leadership, Service and Engagement) presented a paper on “Multi-level Leadership Development Using Experiential Projects and the LID Model” at the recent Leadership Educators Institute in Florida.

Jody Kolter ’11 presented a paper on “Eco’s Abductive Reasoning as a Postmodern Aesthetic” at the Medieval Association of the Midwest conference at the University of Iowa last semester.

The college community gathered at the start of this semester to remember the life of Allison Kasten ’12. Kasten died Jan. 1, 2011, as a result of a car accident in Hillsborough County, Florida. She was visiting the area for an equestrian event.

At a memorial service in Old St. Joe’s, Julie Massey (Campus Ministry) relayed the thoughts of many friends. “The messages of Allison’s goodness are clear,” she said. “This young woman lived in a way that was genuine, real and refreshing. Her love of horses and talent for riding is clear. Her sense of humor bubbles through the thoughts others share. She’s known to have lived with gracious generosity and to have treated others as a true friend.”

Kasten, who was majoring in business administration, was a member of the Green Knight golf team. She is survived by her parents Marie and Craig, sisters Rebecca and Catherine, and brother Graham.

Allison Kasten ’12

Greek life enriches international experience

When Louise Roelens arrived on campus in August, she was a French exchange student. By semester’s end, Roelens described herself as a St. Norbert student — an identity shift that makes her smile. The difference? A group of close-knit American friends, also known as a sorority.

It happened one morning as Roelens walked toward the Campus Center. Someone called out her name. Roelens explains, “I had no friends, so I thought, ‘Who is that?’”

Roelens had attended her first Delta Phi Epsilon meeting the night before and discovered the talk about sorority “sisterhood” was genuine. One of her new “sisters” was reaching out to her.

The simple social gesture changed everything. Roelens realized, with great relief, that she was no longer alone. “And then I was just smiling because, really, you feel like … now the experience begins.”

Roelens’ experience is just what Joseph Tullbane (International Education) wants for international students who come to study and live here. He hopes they feel a part of the campus community.

The Center for International Education encourages integration through the intentional absence of a gathering space for international students. “We’ve suffered some slings and arrows about that,” says Tullbane.

But, he says, they didn’t want international students to form an isolated group. “Part of our job is to take them out of their comfort zone and have them discover a new comfort zone that includes Americans.”

The college has long had an International Student and Scholar Services office focused primarily on academic advising. In August 2010, Tullbane and his staff also dedicated a portion of their services to international students’ non-academic interests and issues.

Director of international programming Marcy O’Malley heads up these services. She says the more ties a student has to a college, the better the chance they will remain there. “So,” she adds, “when we go through the international orientation, we are introducing them to all the different areas of student life.”

Leivur Djurhuus ’12, an international student from the Faeroe Islands, joined Tau Kappa Epsilon in 2008. He is now part of Tau Kappa Epsilon’s leadership team and says joining TKE was one of the best decisions of his college life.

He describes his fellow members as his “brothers away from home” and says: “Oftentimes it is the small things that matter the most. Getting a ride to Wal-Mart after midnight because you are out of milk, needing a swipe to the cafeteria, impromptu movie or video-game nights in someone’s room or just a simple text with a ‘Hi, how are you?’”

To date, international student involvement in Greek organizations is small — only five of the roughly 190 international students at the college are known to participate. One might expect more interest in the future, given the overwhelmingly positive experience of the current international students.

As Roelens describes it, joining a Greek organization can make your short time here “feel like a complete experience.”

Yerzhan Nauruzbayev ’13, from Kazakhstan, pledged to Tau Kappa Epsilon as a freshman.
Births/Adoptions

1990 Lynn (Strojny) and Ted Miller, Green Bay, a son, Theo, July 10, 2010. They live in Madison, Wis.

1991 Julie (Beardsley) and Ramiro Zapata, San Antonio, Texas, a daughter, Marina Ann, April 1, 2010.


1993 Timothoe (Fermanich) and Scott Uttech, Birnamwood, Wis., a daughter, Stella Ruby, Nov. 10, 2009.

1996 Amy (Merkel) and Kirk Schuler, Oshkosh, Wis., a son, Jake William Elliott, June 21, 2010. Jake joins brothers Owen, 6, and Adam, 3.

1997 Sarah (Noh) and Brian Began ’97, Wauwatosa, Wis., a son, Simon Ellis, July 12, 2010. Simon joins brothers Eliot, 5, and Henry, 2.

1997 Chris and Anna Nataki, Blackfoot, Idaho, twin sons, Cooper Brandon and Brayden Christopher, July 27, 2010. Cooper and Brayden join brothers Austin, 10, Hunter, 6, and Anthony, 5.

1997 Kristin (LaPlante) and Mike Leaman, Mequon, Wis., a daughter, Stella Lilou, Aug. 16, 2010. Stella joins sister Lola, 2.

1997 Michelle (Gerard) and Ryan Mangan ’97, Mukwonago, Wis., a daughter, Aubry Elizabeth, Aug. 18, 2010. Aubry joins sisters Kaitlin, 6, and Hailey, 4.

2000 Cheryl (Lewiston) and Jeffrey Meracle, Crystal Lake, Ill., a daughter, Haliee, Feb. 11, 2009.


2002 Fritz and Elizabeth (Gluth) Wagner ’05, Williams Bay, Wis., a son, Joseph Finnegan, June 29, 2010.

2004 Megan (Bustader) and Jesse Augustine ’04, Milwaukee, a daughter, Layla Grace, Sept. 29, 2010.

2005 Jason and Monica Brinker, West Allis, Wis., a son, Aidan Jacob, April 23, 2010. Aidan joins sister Emma, 2.

2005 Ellen (Grace) and James Westin, Edina, Minn., a daughter, James, Aug. 24, 2010.

2008 Ashley (Kopitz) and Scott Thompson ’08, Oak Creek, Wis., a daughter, Grace, April 6, 2010.


2010 Adam Bauer and Sarah Hegernes ’06, April 24, 2010. They live in Waukesha, Wis.


2005 Molly Bacon and Ashley Booth, July 17, 2010. They live in Milwaukee.


2010 Amanda Russo and Ryan Van Zeeland, July 17, 2010. They live in Kaukauna, Wis.


Deaths

1944 The Rev. Paul Schumacher, of Green Bay, died July 27, 2010, at the age of 86. After his ordination in 1948, he served as a priest in Green Bay; Lakewood, Wis.; and Two Rivers, Wis., until his retirement in 1997. He is survived by three siblings.

1948 Vernon Biever, of Port Washington, Wisc., Aug. 13, 2010, at the age of 87. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was a celebrated photographer of the Green Bay Packers for more than six decades. He was named NFL Photographer of the Year in 1948 and was inducted into the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame in 2002. He is survived by three children.

1950 Lloyd “Bud” Kirchman, of Algoma, Wis., died July 16, 2010, at the age of 84. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He worked for Wisconsin Public Service and was a founding employee of the Wisconsin Label Corporation. He is survived by three sisters.

1950 Larry Neuman, of Milwaukee, died Oct. 10, 2010, at the age of 82. He held several leadership positions at Miller Brewing Company until his retirement in 1986 and was a founding member of St. Luke Parish in Brookfield, Wis. He is survived by his wife, Arlene, and seven of eight children.

1950 John Wagner, of Gresham, Ore., died Oct. 5, 2010, at the age of 86. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, in the combat infantry. He was an aviation cadet while at St. Norbert and went on to serve as a traffic engineer for the U.S. Forest Service for 25 years. He is survived by his wife, Beatrice, and six children.

1952 Dewey Schley, of Fairborn, Ohio, died July 25, 2010, at the age of 83. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and worked in the civil service, retiring from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in 1988. He is survived by his wife, Emily, and three sons.


1957 Joseph Elson, of Green Bay, died Oct. 13, 2010, at the age of 83. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and worked as the business manager for Brown Deer public schools for 22 years. He is survived by his wife, Ramona, and two daughters.

1957 Robert “Bob” Hinesh, of Two Rivers, Wis., died Aug. 24, 2010, at the age of 75. He worked at Two Rivers Savings Bank, Manitowoc (Wis.) County Chamber of Commerce and the Area Visitor and Convention Bureau. He is survived by his wife, Sue Ann, and four children.

1957 John Merkatoris, of Green Bay, died Oct. 11, 2010, at the age of 76. He was named on many patents during his 41-year career in research and development at Paper Converting Machine Company. He is survived by his wife, Mary Agnes, and 10 children.

1958 John Berceau, of Sheboygan Falls, Wis., died Sept. 5, 2010, at the age of 76. He served in the U.S. Army and later taught science and drives education for 34 years until retirement in 1993. He is survived by his wife, Lois, and five children.


1965 Michael Kilp, of Milwaukee, died Oct. 4, 2010, at the age of 68. He is survived by his wife, Miriam, and a son.

1971 Mary (Engibous) Connell, of Canfield, Ohio, died July 8, 2010, at the age of 60. She taught in elementary schools in Milwaukee and Ohio. She is survived by her husband, Patrick, three children and her mother.

1980 Lucille Steiner, of Atlanta, Ga., died Nov. 10, 2010, at the age of 52. After earning her medical technology certification from Georgia State University, she worked for nearly 20 years in the microbiology department at Grady Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Bob Kuhl, two sons and a daughter. Among many nieces and nephews is Kevin Steiner ’10.

Class Notes

1964 Dennis Engels and Casey Barrio Minton ’00 are first and second authors, and editors, of the fourth edition of “The Professional Counselor: Portfolio, Competencies, Performance Guidelines and Assessment,” which was granted the 2010 Publication Award by the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision.

1967 Patricia (Sommer) Blumen has retired after 42 years of service to people affected by mental illness.

1971 Kathleen Berken is pursuing a master’s in theology and a certificate in spiritual direction from St. Catherine University. Liturgical Press has purchased the rights to her memoir “Walking on a Rolling Deck: Life on the Ark.”
Nearly 9,000 miles and enormous cultural differences separate De Pere and southern Africa’s Kingdom of Swaziland.

Yet there are similarities, says Casey Golomski ’06, who is in Swaziland until June doing dissertation research as a Fulbright fellow. It is work that recently earned him the American Anthropological Association’s prestigious Carrie Hunter-Tate Award for excellence in academic and professional achievement.

“Wisconsin, as we know, is the quintessential dairy state, and Swaziland has a veritable culture of cattle, where cattle are customarily the source of wealth, prestige and exchange. Both places also champion and excel in growing corn,” says Golomski, a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at Brandeis University.

Then there’s football: the Green Bay Packers in Wisconsin and soccer in Swaziland, says Golomski, who has studied annually in Swaziland since 2008.

“One often sees here that, while women go to church on Sundays, men go to the soccer fields to watch and play the game. In both places, though, stakes are high, with egos, sponsorships and a sense of accomplishment on the line. And, afterwards, there are both real material and imagined consequences for the players, fans and all actors involved in a theatrical drama.”

As for differences, Golomski says many Swazis see vegetarianism as foolishly unhealthy, antisocial and immoral, and to treat pets like children is a sign of psychosocial defect.

Golomski lives in Swazi homes in the city and country while researching how the HIV pandemic affects death rituals for family, friends and coworkers.

After learning Zulu in a three-member class that sang the South African national anthem for Archbishop Desmond Tutu and goes to churches to see how their theologies help Swazis understand life and death.

Many Swazis are troubled, he says, by criticisms, leveled by evangelical and Pentecostal-charismatic Christian churches and global human rights groups, of customs such as widows wearing mourning gowns, placing the deceased’s clothes in graves and paying last respects out loud (practices that may be confused with ancestor worship).

He’s convinced that what human rights groups might see as a bad custom can be empowering, and that understanding the nuances of cultural differences can lead to more productive dialogue and cooperation.

He’s also following brokers in the emerging life and funeral insurance industry to see if people understand the policies and to investigate their effects on families and ideas of risk.

“For example, there is a regular sort of informal adoption of nieces and nephews if one’s brother or sister passes on, but now in order to take out policy coverage, these children have to be formally adopted and registered with the government, making the children legal heirs to one’s estate.”

Golomski says he’s learned many things: We are not alone; others play a large role in shaping us; and rituals — both our own small daily ones and large ones that define our culture and society — give our lives meaning.

He says he’s also learned that “one becomes a minority or a stranger when going away from home to someplace foreign, whether it takes a 20-minute drive or a 20-hour flight.”

Golomski, the son of Ken (Athletics) and Monica Golomski (College Advancement), plans to complete his dissertation in 2013 and use his findings to publish journal articles and possibly a book. He has taught at both Brandeis and Northeastern University and would like to teach in college and serve as a consultant.
**ALUMNI NOTES**

1972 Michael McCabe was appointed operational planner of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization in the J-38 Requirements Branch.

1973 Jay Williams was featured in a piece in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that looked at how he is adapting to his new role as president of the Milwaukee Public Museum, after a career in banking.

1974 Kathy (Hansen) Bates was named District 4 athletic director of the year by the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association. She serves Xavier High School in Appleton.

1976 Bob Burns was included in the 2011 edition of “The Best Lawyers in America.”

1977 Rick Rose directed Barter Theatre’s production of “The Diary of Anne Frank.” He is producing artistic director at Barter Theatre.

1978 Harry Radix was honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals with the Outstanding Fundraising Volunteer Award. He has raised more than $6 million for various projects in the Fox Valley.

1983 Joe Fazio was featured in a Milwaukee BizTimes profile of Commerce State Bank, which was included in a list of Wisconsin’s fastest-growing firms. He is the company’s CEO.

1988 Christopher Jack has been named vice president of operations at the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute.

1989 Patrick Foley is part of a musical group that was awarded Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Cast/Musical in Scene LA’s Best of 2009-10 Awards. The group’s production of “40 Is the New 15” also won Best New Musical, Outstanding Production/Musical and Best Direction of a Musical.

1990 Lynie Vincent is vice president and owner of N.E.W. Plastics Corp., which was profiled in a feature on green business in Insight Business Magazine.

1991 Dave Habiger, who has been appointed to the board of directors of Sonic Solutions, was featured in USA Today in an article on the rise of online movies. He is president and CEO of Sonic.

1991 Scott Hemauer received the annual Max Franc Historic Preservation Award from the De Pere Historical Society.

1992 Tom Abts has joined Landaas & Company Investments as accounting manager.

1992 Tony Giovannini served as a judge for Oshkosh Talent Untapped, a premier amateur talent competition for the Fox Valley. During his career, Tony has toured with Eddie Money, the Steve Miller Band, America and Herman’s Hermits.

1993 Recent appearances by Tom Clark include roles on TNT’s “The Closer” and NBC’s “Outsourced.” He will appear in the film “Everybody Loves Whales” with Drew Barrymore in 2012.

1994 Mike McEvoy has been promoted to president of the food ingredients division at Sargento.

1995 Rebecca (Schramm) Handelsman has been named senior communications and marketing manager at the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego.

1995 Nate Zastrow was profiled as a Milwaukee Business Journal CFO of the Year honoree.

1996 Mike Wiesman has joined Landaas & Company as management communications for McDonald’s Corporation.

1996 Amanda Karm has graduated cum laude from the National University of Health Sciences with a doctoral degree in chiropractic and a certificate in acupuncture.


2000 Marc Belanger is playing for Les Ducs D’Angers, a team in Ligue Magnus, the premier hockey league in France.

2001 Aimée Schattner has been named manager of the Howmet Playhouse in Whitehall, Wis.

2003 Bob Burns was featured in an article on the rise of online movies. He is president and CEO of Sonic.

2005 Jessica (Novitsky) Brubaker has accepted a position as manager of U.S. management communications for McDonald’s Corporation.

2006 Scott Hemauer received the annual Max Franc Historic Preservation Award from the De Pere Historical Society.

2006 Amanda Karm has graduated cum laude from the National University of Health Sciences with a doctoral degree in chiropractic and a certificate in acupuncture.


2008 Marc Belanger is playing for Les Ducs D’Angers, a team in Ligue Magnus, the premier hockey league in France.

2009 Ashley (Kopitz) Thompson received her master’s in school counseling from Concordia University in Wisconsin.

2009 Benedicto Savillo has completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill.

2009 Kristen Bauer has been hired to teach fifth grade at Stettin Elementary School in Wausau, Wis.

2009 Katie Trzaska has been appointed manager of the Howmet Playhouse in Whitehall, Wis.

2011 A.J. Gale was named the Central Hockey League’s Sher-Wood Player of the Month for December 2010. He plays for the Wichita Thunder.

ESL alum ordained area’s first Hispanic priest

**The Rev. José Antonio Castañeda** understands what it means to accept people with different backgrounds.

“One of the things that my family has always taught me was to respect each other’s decisions and lifestyles,” says Castañeda, the first Hispanic priest ordained in Green Bay and a 2007-08 alum of the St. Norbert ESL Institute.

“I studied English in Chicago and Milwaukee, but I received the best teaching at SN C,” Castañeda says. “The teachers here cared more about the students. There was more formation, more structure.”

Castañeda earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and a license in theology in his native Guatemala before coming to the United States to pursue ordination. He completed seminary at Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wis., and served a preparatory pastoral year at Good Shepherd Parish in Chilton, Wis.

Ordained in June by Bishop David Ricken at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Castañeda now serves St. Philip the Apostle and St. Bernard parishes as associate pastor.

“When I was thinking about ministry opportunity in this country, I was especially thinking about working with the Hispanic Catholic community,” says Castañeda. “I am looking forward to not only working with Hispanics, but with all people that reside in this country and the Diocese of Green Bay.”
Sisters in learning

An trio of Norbertine sisters from Trnava, Slovakia, called to help found a new community in the United States, were among students in the college’s ESL program last semester.

Sister Benedikta Hornikova, O.Praem., Sister Adriana Gacikova, O.Praem., and Sister Magdalena Janosikova, O.Praem., arrived in De Pere in time to participate in St. Norbert Abbey’s celebration of the Feast of St. Augustine on Aug. 28. “We made them part of the community while they were here,” says the Rev. Salvatore Cuccia, O.Praem., ’63 (Campus Ministry).

The sisters, who lived at St. Joseph Priory on campus, came to ready themselves for their new work, Hornikova says. “Our congregation of Norbertine sisters in Slovakia received an invitation from the Norbertine fathers in California to help them establish a new community of Norbertine sisters in the United States. We accepted this invitation, and now we three sisters are preparing for this new ministry.”

ESL instructor Jana Detzlaff says the sisters improved their English – a fast-paced, idiom-heavy language – with patience and tenacity: “They were all very grateful and gracious guests and students. They always strived to do their very best and make the most of their stay here.”

They did so by approaching their language lessons with an eye to a broader education. “This ESL program is more than just studying English. It introduces us also to American culture and society, which are very important for us, too,” Hornikova says.

The Norbertine sisters immersed themselves in the life of the college, and particularly its spiritual elements. They even joined the Abbey Singers in a choral performance – in English, of course.

“We are deeply touched with the atmosphere of faith,” Hornikova says of her experience at the college. “We are encouraged with young people interested in different activities here on campus such as Common Prayer, daily Mass, Generations of Faith and the vocational discernment group.” The sisters’ cultural exposure extended far beyond Old St. Joe’s and the abbey church, of course. Detzlaff and her husband welcomed the sisters into their home for dinner; the trio took a day trip to Madison to visit the state Capitol, the University of Wisconsin campus and several museums; and they heard guest lectures from the likes of Matt Doyle (Dining Services) on American cuisine and Lawrence McAndrews (History) on the onset of the Civil War.

“We found here a great community of Norbertines who accepted us with openness, friendliness and generosity,” Hornikova says. “We met here many friendly people, and we appreciate their interest in communicating with us despite our limited English.”

■ The Rev. Dane Radecki, O.Praem., ’72 has been appointed pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Green Bay. He is serving just a few blocks away from Notre Dame Academy, the high school of which he was the first president, and more recently, chief executive officer and spiritual leader.

Radecki, who served as St. Norbert College’s first vice president of mission and heritage until 2005, was honored with the title president emeritus of Notre Dame Academy after stepping down from his position at the Green Bay school last year.

■ Eco-friendly practices at St. Norbert Abbey are highlighted in an article in the 2011 edition of Vision, the annual vocation discernment guide. Brother Steve Herro, O.Praem., ’85 told the magazine: “One of the reasons I joined religious life was because a religious community can live a lifestyle which is less demanding on natural resources and can share more resources with its local community. If you look at the evangelical vows and the vow of poverty, it’s about doing more with less, using fewer resources so that those with less can live more abundantly.”
A new perspective, born of tragedy, sets sights for four years of college athletic experience

Levels of attainment

By Jeff Kurowski

G
tue guy, role player, unsung ... all could apply to Paul Mallers ’11, guard/forward for the Green Knights. But his coach chooses a different description.

“Paul is as valuable as any player on our team,” says Coach Gary Grzesk, now in his fifth year at St. Norbert. “The casual observer probably doesn’t recognize the value he brings. We always say that role players who know their role and play to their strengths can be great players. Paul is a great player.”

Mallers broke into the Green Knight starting lineup for the final seven games of his freshman season and has been a key performer ever since. While his points per game are modest (a high of 6.3 as a sophomore), he has proven to be an efficient scorer by shooting over 50 percent from the field in three of his four collegiate seasons. Not bad for a player who almost bypassed college basketball.

Following a successful prep career at Dundee-Crown High School, located in Carpentersville, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, Mallers was planning on going to college, but wasn’t sure he wanted to play basketball at the next level. A near-death experience changed his outlook.

On St. Patrick’s Day of 2007, Mallers and his mother, Linda, were eating lunch at a Subway restaurant when a sport utility vehicle drove through the wall, sending customers flying. One person was killed and eight were injured, including Mallers, who suffered a broken hand, cuts and bruises. Linda suffered multiple fractures to her foot.

“I don’t take days for granted,” said Mallers. “Live every day to the fullest that you can. That guided me into making a decision to play a few more years. I thought that maybe the guy upstairs wants me to play a little more because I could have been severely injured and, fortunately, I wasn’t.”

Mallers’ contributions often don’t show up on the stat sheet of the Green Knight team (ranked 12th in the country at time of press).

“He is our defensive stopper and we feel comfortable having him guard the other team’s best perimeter scorer,” says Grzesk. “He looks forward to that challenge.”

“My teammates trust me in that role, which is great,” says Mallers. “Chris [Peterson ’11], John [Taylor ’11], David [Wipperfurth ’11] and Steve [Papke ’11] are scorers. For me, it’s playing defense and doing the other little things – helping on screens, rebounding, and not turning the ball over.”

Expectations for the Green Knights were high at the start of the season. The team, ranked in the top 10 in the pre-season polls, returned seven seniors. Grzesk has called on the veterans, including Mallers, to provide leadership.

“You are a great leader,” he says. “He’s not the most vocal leader, but always leads by example. He is an outstanding player and a great student.”

Mallers, a business administration major, said that he has focused not only on helping the team to win this season, but also on enjoying the journey. He is thankful for all that basketball has offered over the past four years. His favorite moments on the court include defeating then-number one UW-Platteville in 2008, and playing in last season’s NCAA tournament.

“You not only get to do what you love, playing sports in college, but you’re also meeting some of the best friends that you will have for the rest of your life,” he says. “The seven seniors are all pretty close. Years from now we will still be talking about the big games and the road trips. Enjoy the ride when you’re here and take it with you wherever you go.”

Paul Mallers ’11
Women’s hockey

National defense

Defensive player Emma Agen Bjalvegard ’14 brings to Green Knight hockey years of experience gained in her hometown of Stockholm, Sweden. Kellie Herson ’11 sat down to talk with the first-year student about her career to date and her hopes for the future.

How long have you played hockey?
I started playing when I was eight years old, and I was interested in it because my brothers played.

This winter, you played for the Swedish national team during the Four Nations Cup. How were you selected for the team?
At home, I play for Segeltorps, which is the best team in Sweden. We won the Swedish national cup last year, and we have six Olympians on our team. I was recruited from there. Being on the Swedish team is amazing, but also winning the national cup. Because I was a team captain I got to hold the trophy when it was given to us, and it was just an awesome moment. We were all so happy.

Are your brothers still playing hockey?
No. Neither one still plays and neither made it as far as I have. But my oldest brother, Johan, works for a sports channel that covers hockey, including the NHL, so he comes to America a lot for work.

What made you decide to come to St. Norbert College?
Meeting the other girls on the team and seeing the campus helped me decide. The most difficult thing about living here is the food. It’s very different from what we have at home in Sweden.

Do you have a personal dream?
It’s amazing. My dream is to play for Sweden in the Olympics, so this is a huge step toward that goal. I want to make it to the Olympics.

And for the Green Knights?
To win. No question. We all want to go far this season.

Scoreboard

Schneider Stadium’s first season ended with winning seasons for all four teams that call the new facility home. Here are a number of reasons we’re happy to see the Green Knights compete on Lost Dauphin Road in this state-of-the-art facility.

77
Number of points scored in the Sept. 25 football win against Lawrence University; a high-scoring team record

1980
The last year the Green Knights were able to host a home track meet on campus

6
Soccer games that went into overtime

2,454
Seats in Schneider Stadium

0
Dollars required for student admission to all football, soccer or track events

3,349
Attendance at the first home football game of the 2010 season, played against the University of St. Thomas

19
Years that Howard “Chick” Kolstad, for whom the playing field is named, spent coaching Green Knight football

10,500,000
Reasons to say thank you to the donors whose gifts, in this dollar amount, made all possible

Men’s hockey

371 equals No. 1
Coach Tim Coghlin set the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association record for wins Jan. 21 as the Green Knights posted a crucial 5-4 win over University of Wisconsin-Superior at the University of Minnesota-Duluth’s Amsoil Arena.

Coghlin picked up his 371st win with St. Norbert as a member of the NCHA. Coghlin passed legendary Bemidji State coach Bob Peters, the namesake of the league’s post-season trophy the Peters Cup. Peters had 370 wins in his 1982 and 1984-99 seasons. At time of press, Coghlin was 375-99-39 in 17 years in the NCHA and 385-108-40 in 18 years overall.
Spring on Campus

With the semester well under way, there is plenty to look forward to on campus. Come and be a part of these events and more! For information about all that is going on, check out www.snc.edu/calendar.

March 23
“Responding to the Financial Crisis”: a Great Decisions Series lecture with Michael Gapen of Barclays Capital

March 24
“Leadership in the New Economy”: a CEO Breakfast Series event with Bob DeKoch of The Boldt Company

April 2
Phenomenal Woman Conference

April 5
Chamber Music Concert

April 9
Fresh Ink Composition Concert

April 21
“The Automobile and American Culture”: a Women’s Enrichment Series event with Dean Emeritus Michael Marsden

May 7
A Day at St. Norbert

May 7
Party at the Caf: a farewell to the Sensenbrenner experience

May 7, 8
Knights on Broadway presents “A Grand Knight: A Salute to Broadway’s Epic Musicals”

May 15
Commencement

May 16-July 29
Summer Sessions I, II and III

June 9-26
Music Theatre kicks off its 50th summer season with “Man of La Mancha”

Get social!

To see the range of current St. Norbert College Facebook pages, Twitter accounts, YouTube sites and more, go to www.snc.edu/go/socialmedia