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On the cover:
Framed by the wrought iron archway on Third Street, the Miriam B. and James J. Mulva Library catches the early morning sun. The ellipse, a striking architectural element at the building’s northeast corner, houses on its second floor the Center for Norbertine Studies and, on its third floor, a fireplace lounge for comfortable reading and a wonderful new view of campus.
Wisdom enough for all

Susan Allen

The first library I knew was housed in a windowless room under the stage of our parish hall, and staffed by a holy terror in the shape of one very strict lady librarian. Borrowers were limited to two books at a time and since, as a child, I read pretty much whenever I had my eyes open, I was forced to brave this dragon in her lair several times a week.

Planning for this magazine issue on libraries, I remembered myself at age 10, branching out of the children’s section (two bookcases, one fiction, one non) to check out “David Copperfield.” I approached the desk where the dragon-lady deftly plied her long wooden trays of library cards.

The sight of two-and-a-half shelf inches of Dickens clasped in my small trembling hand drew indignant flame. She glared at me over her spectacles: “Does your mother know you are reading this stuff?” I quailed, but did not yield. The dragon was routed in that battle, and I made my escape with the gold.

It never occurred to me to question this ordeal. The librarian was answering her call as keeper of the books, and it seemed only fitting that any who desired to partake of that treasure must pass through the fire.

But I’m so glad it’s not like that at the Mulva.

It’s not just that the staff are more welcoming. It’s the sense that, simply, the building gives us new ways to learn. I thought this over when I heard an African folk tale, shared at Common Prayer this semester by Mary Oling-Sisay.

Mary, who heads the division of student affairs, told of Ajani who, a long time ago, had all the wisdom in the world stored in a huge pot. He had been instructed by the Supreme Being to share it with everyone. But every day, when he looked in the pot, Ajani learned new ideas and skills.

So he decided to hide the wisdom in a tall tree. He tied the pot firmly to his belly, but could not climb because the pot kept getting in his way. Finally, his son suggested, “If you tie the pot to your back, it will be easier to cling to the tree and climb.”

Ajani followed this advice successfully but, when he got to the top of the tree, he grew incensed that some of his young knew more than he did, even though he was the one with the pot of wisdom. Angry, he hurled down the pot. It broke, and pieces of wisdom flew in every direction. People ran to pick them up, and took some to their families and friends, too.

And that is why, to this day, no one person holds all the world’s wisdom. Instead, we piece it together whenever and wherever we meet to exchange ideas.

The Mulva is where, on campus, we embrace our shared wisdom. We can find a quiet nook to mull over some of it, or a comfortable study spot where we can piece together more of it with friends or a professor. Or we can chat about what we have learned, or would like to, over a cup of coffee. Coffee in a library! Now there’s a wise thought – enough to tame any dragon.
Packers partner on national conference

In a first-of-its-kind partnership between an NFL team and an institution of higher education, the college is teaming up with the Green Bay Packers to co-sponsor a major conference on sport and society.

Programming for “A Mirror of our Culture: Sport and Society in America” will take place at both St. Norbert and Lambeau Field. The May 26-28 conference will bring sports professionals together with academics who study the topic from many different disciplinary perspectives.

The conference is expected to attract submissions from scholars worldwide. The program will also include a publishers exhibit area, a gallery exhibition and a film festival.

Michael Marsden (Academic Affairs) says, “St. Norbert College, with one of the best Division III athletic programs in the country, is partnering with the Green Bay Packers, one of the most storied National Football League franchises in the country, to co-host a national conference.”

For more on the conference, go to www.snc.edu/sportandsociety.

Activist named Ambassador of Peace

The Rev. John Dear, S.J., nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2008, is this year’s recipient of the St. Norbert Ambassador of Peace Award.

Dear, activist and pastor, works at the forefront of the religious peace movement in the United States. The author/editor of 25 books, he has been arrested 75 times for his actions in the cause of peace. He served eight months in jail after he was arrested at the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, where he hammered on an F15 nuclear fighter bomber in a symbolic attempt to “beat swords into plowshares.” Peace-makers should not be too focused on the immediate success of their efforts, Dear told his audience on campus Oct. 1. He professed his admiration for the abolitionists, who proclaimed a world free of slavery at a time when slave-owning was the norm. Similarly, he said, now was the time for peacemakers to proclaim a world free of war, as an important step towards that reality.

Engineering partnership extends academic options

An engineering degree offered with Michigan Tech is the latest in a series of articulation agreements that continue to expand academic options for students at St. Norbert College. The agreement gives students the chance to take pre-engineering courses at St. Norbert for two years before undertaking a transitional summer period at Michigan Tech. Typically, they will take two to three courses over that summer that will prepare them for their two final years of coursework at the Houghton, Mich., school.

The new partnership means students who value a liberal arts foundation can benefit from that experience and still complete their engineering degree in four years.

Gallery features images from 50 years of sports

The sports photography of Vern Biever ’48 was the subject of the first Baer Gallery exhibition of this academic year.

Biever spent more than five decades as the Green Bay Packers’ team photographer and the show drew from his extensive collection of prints, including Super Bowl images. Biever was inducted into the Packers Hall of Fame in 2002.
An attitude for success

Patrick Kelly’s term as lead trustee was marked by financial stewardship, support of academic pursuits and provision of state-of-the-art facilities

By Mike Dauplaise ’84

St. Norbert College has seen a lot of progress over the past seven years. Perhaps no one has been as influential in that progress as the outgoing chair of the college’s board of trustees, Patrick Kelly ’77.

Kelly has presided over matters of governance ranging from the selection of Thomas Kunkel as president to the pursuit of a campus master plan, an achievement highlighted by the recent completion of two major construction projects.

Kelly downplays his own role. “I had the privilege of being associated with Tom Olejniczak ’71, Abbot (Jerome) Tremel, O.Praem., ’51, Phil Hendrickson and some of the other previous board chairs. Each of them was integral in moving St. Norbert College further along.”

Kelly joined the board of trustees in 1988 and served as the vice chairman under Olejniczak for six years before assuming the chairmanship role seven years ago. A Chicago area native and resident, Kelly brings a diversified business background to the table as chief executive officer of DP Holdings, which has interests in financial services, distribution, food, energy, real estate and technology.

“I had a good feel for what the roles and responsibilities of the [chairmanship] position would be,” Kelly says. “There weren’t a lot of surprises as far as expectations of what needed to be done, but there were plenty of surprises along the way.”

Kelly credits college president emeritus William Hynes with developing a campus master plan that built upon the many projects initiated by his predecessor, Thomas Manion. The first issues that Hynes brought to the board were the need for a new library, science building and athletics facility.

“There also was a need for some new housing for students,” Kelly says. “We decided to build a state-of-the-art facility that would entice our students to experience on-campus living for all four of their years.”

The Fr. Eugene E. Gries, O.Praem., Residence Hall opened early last summer, followed soon afterward by the Miriam B. and James J. Mulva Library.

“When we went about looking at building the library, it became apparent that we could begin work at the same time on the Gries dorm to take advantage of some economies of scale,” Kelly recalls. “The board is responsible for the proper utilization of resources, and through lead gifts and judicious use of bonds, we were able to get these construction projects initiated and finished.

“We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Mulva family for their expression of confidence in the college, and to all of the other donors as well.”

Kelly is passionate about the board’s responsibility to provide a teaching, learning and living environment equal to the quality of faculty and students who call St. Norbert home.

“There’s no question that the single greatest asset the college has is the faculty,” he says. “It’s the responsibility of the board to provide the resources so the college can continue to build on that excellent faculty and provide opportunities to educate our students in the liberal arts, and Norbertine traditions and heritages.”

Kelly points to the need for a new science facility (see “Paying it forward for Science” on page 6) as the greatest challenge for St. Norbert in the near term.

“That has to be taken care of in short order,” he states. “The return on investment in quality of education in terms of faculty and to our students will far exceed the cost.”

In addition to matters of governance, Kelly says the key responsibilities of each board member include assisting in philanthropic activities and acting as a lead cheerleader for the institution.

“All the men and women who serve on the board give tirelessly of their time, effort and energy for the betterment of the college,” he says. “It’s a real privilege to work with them as we try to establish a very sound financial footing so the college can succeed in the future.”
Management students do a double take

A group project undertaken as part of the Foundations of Management course helped double the profits at a campus café.

With an initiative called “Taking Back the Weekend,” the class promoted the Knight Owl Café’s Friday and Saturday night hours. The students wrote a business plan and worked together towards an enterprise that made up 25 percent of their individual semester grades.

Kimberly Konop ’11 and her group organized a volleyball tournament, served pancakes and sold 50/50 raffle tickets. The business majors collaborated with a student organization that supports a Memphis children’s hospital, St. Jude’s, and profits went to the hospital. “It was really nice to move away from the classroom and put on an event like that together,” Konop states.

Jonathan Daun ’10 and his group partnered with the ALIVE ministry team and the VMC resident assistants to put on a Mario Kart tournament in the gym opposite the Knight Owl, in the Penning’s Activity Center. They provided free non-alcoholic beverages while raising awareness about the dangers of driving drunk.

Jason Senjem (Business Administration) says his students thought the assignment seemed like a big hill to climb. “But,” he says, “when I was visiting them in the Knight Owl, they were having a lot of fun and they felt ownership of what they were doing. I hope that they can relate to some of the concepts we talk about in management, in terms of planning, controlling, organizing and leading.”

Paying it forward for science

When Mark Stinski ’63 arrived on campus in the fall of 1959, he planned to become a teacher—a teacher of high school biology, to be exact. But those plans quickly changed when he walked into the old Quonset hut that used to house St. Norbert’s science facilities and took his seat in a class taught by the Rev. Anselm Keefe, O.Praem.

The class surveyed world diseases and how to control them, and Keefe’s teaching had a powerful impact on Stinski. “I was struck by how many diseases are out there for which there is no cure,” he recalls, “so I decided not to teach, but to become a researcher and find cures.” With Keefe as his early mentor, he was well on his way.

Stinski, who spoke on campus this fall, went on to a distinguished career in virology at the University of Iowa, where he cloned and discovered the functions of the cytomegalovirus promoter, which prompts the expression of proteins. Companies use the promoter to produce protein-based therapeutic drugs that combat everything from serious viral infections and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma to homophilia.

But Stinski said he never forgot the deep impact Keefe had on him, and in gratitude he recently donated $375,000 to St. Norbert College. The donation is funding schematics that are infusing energy into the planning process for the renovation and expansion of the Dr. John R. Minahan Science Hall. The re-imagined facility is giving faculty in the natural sciences the chance to discuss, not only the way they see science going from strength to strength at St. Norbert, but also the way science education itself will continue to evolve over the next 50 years.

“What you experience as a young student can set the stage for what you do in life,” Stinski told his audience during a recent talk on campus, adding students should follow their hearts and study their passion.

“Then you lead an energetic life and you have a rewarding career. And that’s the most important thing that can come out of a liberal arts college.”

Nutgathering 101

He may be small in stature but he’s still a big guy on campus. This albino squirrel is one of the college’s most popular residents—and he’s not hard to spot. It’s not just his snow-white pelt that has endeared him to the community, but his can-do attitude. He is an extrovert creature who is always engaged in some productive activity. He even has his own page on Facebook: search for Friends of SNC’s Albino Squirrel.

St. Norbert’s oldest living alum turns 103

Earlier this year the college sent congratulations and warm good wishes to its most senior alum. Genevieve Welnick ’53 celebrated her 103rd birthday May 21.

Born in 1906, when Theodore Roosevelt was in office, the retired schoolteacher has lived under 19 presidents. She keeps up with current events from her home in Algoma, Wis., where she watches CNN and keeps her latest copy of this magazine at hand. On the wall of her room hangs her diploma, signed by Abbot Bernard Penning, O.Praem.

Katrina Marshall ’09 visited Welnick recently to log her memories for the college archives. Marshall says, “It is difficult for me to find the words to express just how humbling it felt for me when I had the chance to speak face-to-face with someone who has lived so long, and experienced so much. I took the opportunity as an invitation to connect with a living part of my institution’s history, on a level that few people before me have.”

Kimberly Konop ’11

Genevieve Welnick ’53
The Miriam B. and James J. Mulva Library was dedicated Aug. 30, 2009, in the presence of Miriam (Brozyna) ’69 and James Mulva, President Thomas Kunkel, President Emeritus William Hynes and the Most Rev. Robert Morneau, auxiliary bishop of Green Bay.

Morneau, in a poem specially written for the occasion, called the college’s newest building “a signal of transcendence, a light in a dark world, the soul of St. Norbert College and its heartbeat.”

The day was marked with speeches, music and ribbon-cutting, and with this invocation by the Rev. Jay Fostner, O.Praem., ’84, vice president for mission and heritage:

“It is God who inspires in the human spirit the desire to record and preserve through books and other means the discoveries of the human mind that open the way to truth.

“Every time we enter this building, we are given the opportunity to learn, to grow, to understand, and to move closer to the truth. Through reading and study, truth becomes the guide for living, wisdom nourishes humility and we are more easily led to mutual understanding.”

Right: Bill Auriemma ’77, incoming chair of the college’s board of trustees, addressed an audience that included new students, their parents, Norbertines and members of the community.
Meet the Mulva

Welcoming and wired: the flexible spaces of the Mulva Library illuminate new paths to learning

By Lisa Strandberg

Enter the Miriam B. and James J. Mulva Library – now and forever the Mulva – before the morning dew has dried outside and you may catch a glimpse of prismatic rainbows dancing on the lobby’s white walls. Visit the central commons on the third floor at noontime and you’ll likely spot shadows of the Norbertines’ trademark fleur de lis cast upon the cork floor. Stroll past the library in the evening and you’ll see it lit like a lantern and humming with activity.

Indeed, the character of the new library, bedecked in windows from front to back and top to bottom, changes with the time of day. More than that, though, it changes with the presence of its patrons, morphing to meet their needs for information, collaboration and high-tech learning. That is its design’s intent: to serve its purpose with a grace and hospitality that will alter the way the college community gathers, studies and interacts.

“This is the first building ever on campus whose initial purpose was a library,” said Angela Schneider ’10, a student library employee since her freshman year at the college. “It’s really a gift to St. Norbert to actually have a library that’s supposed to be a library.”

But it goes beyond that, according to Terry Jo Leiterman (Mathematics), one of the Mulva’s earliest users. “For me, the new library faithfully showcases the academic spirit of the college. The space seems to inherently motivate learning and inquiry. I enjoy working there because it’s inviting and the scholastic atmosphere rouses my creativity,” she said.

The Mulva has many features that make such study easier than ever before. Join us for an early floor-by-floor tour of its amenities.

First Floor: the learning commons

The floor-to-rooftop glass of the Mulva’s main entrance – the library “is saturated with light,” said the Rev. Jim Neilson, O.Praem., ’88 (Art) – gives way to a lobby enhanced by skylights and intriguing angles. Besides being beautiful, the space provides an informal social setting, said architect Joe Rizzo, A.L.A., A.I.A., principal with RMJM, the firm that designed the Mulva.

On the library’s ground level, east and west entries beckon passersby into the building; a fully wired presentation room with an interactive whiteboard serves the entire St. Norbert community; Ed’s Cafe offers sustenance between periods of study; and a lounge with wireless access lets students congregate 24 hours a day, five days a week.

“All of those things were meant to be very welcoming, very active, very interactive,” Rizzo said.

“At the Todd Wehr, we really didn’t have a lot of ‘people’ space,” said library director Felice Maciejewski. That can’t be said about the Mulva, with its first-floor learning commons where comfortable, accommodating furniture invites spontaneous conversations and connection.

“Every day it changes. I see a space being used differently, and I think that’s so cool,” Maciejewski said. “It’s very flexible seating.

The new Mulva Library is full of quiet, comfortable places for study, reading and reflection, all with wireless connectivity. Laptops and mini-books are available at the circulation desk.

View a time-lapse video of the library construction from start to finish. snc.edu/go/magazine

Web Extra
Handles and casters on armchairs and tables throughout the library make it simple to rearrange a space to suit the needs of formal or spontaneous study groups. Meanwhile, natural colors and textures create a synergistic relationship with the lush outdoor setting of campus, encouraging patrons to linger amidst the calming browns and greens.

They’ll find all the technology they need ready to hand – a great treat for those who struggled to find an outlet, Wi-Fi hot spot or computer workstation in the Todd Wehr. “Our wireless in here is flawless,” Schneider said.

“With the Mulva Library, we wanted to be sure that whatever we planned for technology would bring us into the 21st century and carry us forward,” Maciejewski said.

To that end, the library’s computer count has nearly tripled, from 20 desktops and 18 laptops to 60 desktops and 30 laptops. A good number of those computers, including several dual-monitor workstations, reside on the library’s first floor, situated around a spacious information desk designed with patrons in mind.

“They took all the different desks” – circulation, reference and computer help – “and put them all in one so that a student can come to the desk with any question and get their answer, or at least get pointed in the right direction,” Schneider said.

Information literacy and instruction librarian Paul Waelchli added that the new desk layout makes it easier for him and his colleagues to help students succeed. So, too, does the placement of librarians’ offices, adjacent to the desk and behind a clear glass wall.

“All of us now become much more accessible. We’re able to address the needs of students when they have them and maybe even before they have them,” Waelchli said.

Second Floor: the stacks – and spaces for study

Just as patrons are more comfortable in the Mulva than in the Todd Wehr, so, too, are the books, said Maciejewski. The second and third floors each house half of the library’s quarter-million volumes, with ample room for growth.

With all those bookshelves on the second level, one might expect a more enclosed environment there. Not so, said Rizzo, “Anywhere you stand in the building, even in the stacks, you look to your left or right and you’re going to see natural light.”

A few factors ensure that. For one, central reading spaces, furnished with living-room seating, within both the second- and third-floor stacks let sunlight shine through from east to west. What’s more, the open, three-story entryway brings light to every level.

Few second-floor spaces are more gloriously lit than the reading room, with its vaulted ceiling and eastern exposure. “It’s that respectful space you see in some of the grand libraries of the world,” Maciejewski said. “It just a beautiful, beautiful room.”

Within it, form and function unite, with outlet boxes set into the expansive tabletops. “This will be a very popular area because of the size of the tables and the openness of it,” Schneider said.

Vying for patrons’ attention on the second floor, eight uniquely configured study rooms along the east wall offer space appropriate to any group work. Most have white boards; some have soft seating and monitors to which students can connect their laptops to share information; one even contains equipment that lets patrons record and review presentations – a tool that’s already proven invaluable for the college’s ESL students.

“That kind of environment is a real courtesy to our students,” Neilson said.

Finishing out the second floor are the curriculum and children’s library, a resource for both education students and local teachers; a technology-equipped, flexibly furnished seminar room; a column of individual study carrels along the west wall that’s repeated on the third floor; the impressive Center for Norbertine Studies (see page 15); and the climate-controlled special collections area and college archives. When not in use for another purpose, all are open to students for study.

“Depending on the mood you’re in, you can find the right space for you,” Waelchli said.

Third Floor: space for instruction and reflection

As in the Todd Wehr, the third floor of the Mulva will likely prove the quietest in the house. Excluding the living room seating in the stacks, the group study areas on this floor all are enclosed. They include “the fishbowl” – a glass-walled room with two computers and seating for eight – as well as a larger room that can
They say you never get a second chance to make a first impression. Fortunately, it seems the new Miriam B. and James J. Mulva Library doesn’t need one. Here, an afternoon’s sampling of student, faculty and alumni reactions to the campus’s latest addition.

Samuel Sleger ’10, at work on one of the Mulva’s first-floor computers, already had concluded that he will use the Mulva much more than he did the Todd Wehr.

“I really like the feel of it with all the comfortable furniture,” he said. “It’s just going to make it a lot more conducive to my kind of study habits … especially late at night with the 24-hour area.”

His favorite feature: the dual-monitor computer workstations. “It allows me the flexibility to flip back and forth in terms of everything I’m working on, very easily,” Sleger said.

Across the room from Sleger, the Rev. Jim Neilson, O.Praem., ’88 (Art) was using one of the dual-monitor PCs to put several books on reserve for his students. He’s delighted that the Mulva offers easier access to information than did the Todd Wehr, especially for a professor like him who has an office nearby.

“I’ll be actually stretching the parameters of my classroom now and coming in here, which I’m thrilled to do,” Neilson said. “It’s basically across the street, so all of a sudden the classroom has gotten very, very big, which is fantastic.”

On the next floor, Danielle Partain ’04 was at another of the library’s approximately 90 computers. Now a student at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, she had returned to her parents’ home in northeast Wisconsin to study for her national board exams.

“It’s awesome,” she said within minutes of entering the Mulva for the first time. “I’m impressed.”

What struck her most was the space available throughout the library for collaborative study. “I just remember it was more difficult to do group projects in the old library, so we would always go to the Bemis Center and go in a conference room and work there,” Partain said.

Beyond that, she added, “It’s just really pretty and a great atmosphere.”

By the book

And that, after all, is what a library is about — connecting people with information in as many ways as possible. And that’s why the St. Norbert community is so excited about the beautifully lit beacon that is the Mulva.

As Neilson put it, “A library should be sort of illuminating, shouldn’t it? So this is perfect.”

Lined up side by side, the books moved from the Todd Wehr Library to the new Miriam B. and James J. Mulva Library span a
If her younger self had had her way, the director of the Miriam B. and James J. Mulva Library would be circling the globe as a diplomat. Instead, Felice Maciejewski moves in a world just as big and broad, populated by information and those who need it.

How did he and his staff of students do it? With several tape measures. They had three days to complete the task. “It hit us real fast,” Bosco said.

Moving that much knowledge takes careful planning, precise execution and innumerable book carts.

Library staff members looked at the collection – nearly a quarter-million volumes – in several ways, crunched numbers and then crunched them again to quantify sub-collections, estimate growth and determine precisely what would go where in the new library. “Everyone really had to be involved in that and figure out how we were going to do this,” Maciejewski said.

With a plan in hand, staffers drafted dispensation instructions for the entirety of the Todd Wehr. Signs posted in every section identified shelf contents and the exact location in the Mulva to which they should be moved.

Porta-racks – wooden bookshelves on wheels – were systematically filled and labeled at the Todd Wehr and loaded in perfect sequence onto a semitrailer. The semi then drove the few yards to the Mulva, where everything came off the truck in reverse order.

Fortunately, the college had some professional help for the heavy lifting. C. Coakley Relocation Services’ employees swept in for the move June 22 through 26 – naturally, the hottest week of the entire summer. “It was in the 90s every day,” Bosco said.

Nonetheless, Maciejewski said, “It was like a very well-oiled machine, or like an orchestra.”

Reference desk to the rescue
Life-saving librarians set the course for Mulva director’s career

If her younger self had had her way, the director of the Miriam B. and James J. Mulva Library would be circling the globe as a diplomat. Instead, Felice Maciejewski moves in a world just as big and broad, populated by information and those who need it.

Though no one at the Mulva calls her Ambassador Maciejewski, she has no doubt that the work she does there matters. A formative experience taught her that librarians can, in fact, be flat-out heroic.

With a bachelor’s degree in Italian, with minors in international relations and Spanish from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Maciejewski went to work in Madison, first at the University of Wisconsin’s Medical Sciences Center, a library serving the school of medicine and public health, and later at the Memorial Library.

“I had this very tedious job behind the reference desk checking in medical journals,” she said – a far cry from roving Europe in a sleek black car topped with an American flag.

Nevertheless, she saw that her colleagues in the reference department did exciting work – none of it more exciting than the search prompted by a call from an emergency room physician.

The doctor was treating a seriously ill child who had ingested minoxidil, at that time a new, topical hair-loss medication sold under the brand name Rogaine. The drug originally had been developed as an oral medication for hypertension and could have fatal effects; thus, the physician desperately needed to find the best course of action to take.

“The reference librarians were all in a tizzy and were looking for this information,” Maciejewski said.

Finding that information was a fairly Herculean task in a pre-digital setting. Back in the day, said Maciejewski, librarians retreated to a small room to develop their search strategy and then set about following it. That’s how her colleagues frantically proceeded that day.

After hours of searching, they had the information the doctor sought and, Maciejewski said, “pretty much saved the life of this child.”

After that, she was hooked. She enrolled in the University of Wisconsin’s master’s program in library science, and the rest is history – if not diplomacy.
In its third incarnation since the 1960s, the building that most recently housed the Todd Wehr Library will soon take on an entirely different function—one St. Norbert students are sure to find helpful.

The 63,000-square-foot, two-and-a-half-story building was vacated earlier this year when the library was replaced by the new Miriam B. and James J. Mulva Library. And, starting in spring 2010, the building—now known as Todd Wehr Hall—will be home to an array of student services and offices.

“We’re trying to use the building to better serve students,” says Cindi Barnett (Student Affairs). “It’s a way of consolidating offices so students can get a lot of information in one place,” adds bursar Cheryl Knuth (Finance).

Students with multiple questions, for example, about housing, financial aid and advising will now be able to find resources in one building instead of venturing to offices across campus.

An advisory board of campus representatives, including Barnett and Knuth, was formed earlier this year to discuss the opportunities for serving students in the Todd Wehr facility, creating a centralized location to get answers to many of their campus-related questions.

Many department offices that will relocate are currently in the John Minahan Science Hall, the largest building on campus. That building will eventually be renovated into a building exclusively dedicated to the sciences. “It’s part of the whole campus master plan,” says registrar Rick Guild.

The advisory group is also discussing having a manned central desk greet students upon entry. “This facility is going to be a traffic center, as well as a place where students can get answers and referral,” says Jeff Zahn (Financial Aid).

Renovation under way

Todd Wehr Hall is undergoing what John Barnes (Facilities) calls an “adaptive renovation.” “We’re not adding to the building,” he says. “We’re creatively reusing the space. The challenging part is to get the best space utilization.”

Remodeling, moving around a few walls and redecorating are only part of the rebirth of the venue. New heating/ventilation and air conditioning will be installed, modernizing the outdated 40-year-old system.

Todd Wehr, Zahn says, “is a venerable building that has had many changes. It has a history of changing with the times.”

It opened in the late 1960s as a women’s dormitory; about 10 years later, it was converted to a library, in a renovation that scored several campus design awards, according to the advisory group.

This second renovation, which Barnes estimates will cost $3 million, is expected to be completed by the beginning of the spring semester. And while the advisory group hesitates to call it a “one-stop shop,” Todd Wehr Hall will definitely provide students with the information, answers and referrals they need in a more convenient centralized site.

Centralized services at the heart of campus will improve the student experience

The new Todd Wehr Hall will include:
The campus bookstore (moving from its current location on Grant Street)
Career Services
Payroll
Advising
Academic Support Services
Campus Ministry
Parish Office
Program of Faith, Learning and Vocation
Office of Norbertine Vocation
Financial Aid
Bursar’s Office
Registrar
Residential Education and Housing
Honors Lounge
ESL classrooms
Small meeting rooms
The Discoveries International store.
From the patchwork library system that squeezed into less-than-adequate space in three different buildings to today’s state-of-the-art Mulva Library, Karen Mand has been the one constant.

Mand was a student at Silver Lake College in Manitowoc, Wis., in 1971, working toward a minor in library science and happy with her work study job in its library, when St. Norbert offered her a job a couple weeks before graduation. That would be the first and last job she’d ever take, but she has witnessed an evolution in library science during her 38 years at St. Norbert College.

With the Mulva Library now open for its inaugural semester, Mand spoke with Mike Dauplaise ’84 on her career and the changes she’s seen in libraries and students at St. Norbert.

Q: What are your current duties?
A: I’m the cataloging management specialist. That means I do database work, cataloging, and generally make sure our database is in as good of shape as it can be. I love libraries, and I love working in libraries. I get to see all the new books that come in.

Q: How does the Mulva compare to Todd Wehr?
A: When we moved into the Wehr Library, we thought it was paradise. But this is so much more inviting and comfortable. People comment that they can curl up somewhere and pick up a book and just start reading. The colors are more soothing, and it’s more conducive to studying and sitting. The natural light is so nice compared to the other building. I can look out onto the street from my office, and it’s just a fabulous view. There is so much light and airiness compared to the other building.

Q: Tell us about the other library facilities in which you’ve worked during your time at St. Norbert.
A: When I started, the main library was on the third floor of Boyle Hall. There was also a science library in the John Minahan Science building, and the education department was in St. Joseph’s Hall — which is the facilities building now — and it had a small library there, too. It was a constant back and forth across Grant Street to get our work done.

Q: How has the library system changed?
A: We ran out of room in Boyle Hall in the late 1970s. We went through the whole collection and pulled out anything that was not in circulation in 10 years and put them in the science building. When we moved into the Wehr Library in 1980, we were integrating collections from the Boyle library, the science building library, Media Services, the least-used books collection, and the education library of curriculum and children’s literature. We did the move ourselves. We hired students to pack the books in boxes and used carts to move them into the Wehr building.

Q: And the students?
A: They all have cell phones and laptops now, and face-to-face contact is something they’re not totally comfortable with. I think that’s not necessarily a good thing.

Q: You must have seen a lot of changes during your career?
A: When I came here in 1971, I had never even used an electric typewriter before. When we did interlibrary loans, we had to fill out American Library Association forms that you typed up and sent out through the mail. Depending on where you sent it, it could take weeks for it to come back. We had struggles even getting computer wiring into the Todd Wehr Library, because it wasn’t designed for that. I didn’t even have a computer when we moved into the Wehr. Here, the desks are configured for computers instead of patching things together. This is designed to be a functional work space. We moved into the Mulva Library in June, and it felt like home immediately.

A catalog of service
Despite being nearly 900 years old, for most of the order’s existence there’s been no single place to study the Norbertines’ history and spirituality. That started to change in 2006 with the creation of the Center for Norbertine Studies.

The center took the next step in its evolution to an international facility with its move from the Todd Wehr Library to the new Mulva Library, says William Hyland, director.

“There is no such thing anywhere,” Hyland says. “We think it’s a very important role we can play both for the United States and internationally. To do this in the context of a liberal arts college shows that it’s a living heritage. It’s an ancient heritage, but it’s very much alive.”

The Rev. Andrew Ciferni, O.Praem., ’64, a member of the college’s board of trustees, sees the center and its central place in the new library as both expressing and fostering the college’s renewed sense of its Catholic and Norbertine mission.

“There is no other place in the world devoted exclusively to Norbertine studies. There is one for the Cistercians-Trappists at Western Michigan University; one for the Carthusians in Germany; and many Franciscan centers throughout the world. No history of religious life, especially in the Middle Ages, can ignore the role of the Norbertines,” Ciferni says.

Carol Neel, professor of history at Colorado College, agrees. “The Norbertines were an important and distinctive voice in the 12th century; their model for apostolic life, as well as their beautiful literature, deserves far more attention by modern scholars than it has yet received,” Neel says.
“It gives people a place to go to learn about the history of the school and the order,” says Lindsay Koeppel ’09, who last year was a center intern. “There’s so much there to learn, so it’s a great opportunity for St. Norbert students.”

Visitors to the center, on the second floor in the northwest corner of the library, enter a large reading and conference room adjacent to a reception area and the offices of Hyland and Catherine Kasten, program coordinator.

The large room is home to Norbertine-related books, art and a stained glass window. The center’s collection also includes microfilm, microfiche and rare books dating back to the 16th century. Hyland plans to add sculpture and digitized works. Coming soon on long-term loan from St. Norbert Abbey are rare books on the order’s history.

Recently, Strahov Abbey in Prague gave the center several books, including catalogs of their medieval manuscripts, Hyland says. He anticipates more gifts as other abbeys become familiar with the center – particularly after the order’s general chapter meets in De Pere in 2012.

“We’re looking, of course, for older things, but contemporary things as well – anything that pertains to the history and spirituality of the order and the wider family of Augustinian canons,” Hyland says. “My ultimate goal would be for us to become the center for the study of all canons regular.”

The center is also home to the Klimon Collection of editions of the “Confessions” by St. Augustine, the fifth century bishop and doctor of the church whose rule for religious life St. Norbert adopted in 1121, after he founded the order.

The collection, which is kept in the library’s state-of-the-art special collections and rare books room, includes more than 75 volumes in several languages, dating from the 16th to 21st centuries.

Hyland, who grew up on Staten Island, had never met a Norbertine until coming to St. Norbert College in 1999, where he taught Latin part-time after his wife, Sabine Hyland (Anthropology), was hired.

However, Hyland knew the order well through his doctoral dissertation on John-Jerome of Prague, O.Praem. (1370-1440), a missionary to Lithuania, chaplain and confessor to the Polish king, and a key player in church councils and reform.

The center stands at the intersection between his own academic and historical interests and the college’s focus on its Norbertine mission and heritage, says Hyland, who has added courses on Norbert and the early Norbertines, Augustine, and early Christian monasticism. He also gives and sponsors on-campus talks and programs about the Norbertine heritage.

“You can’t just expect the heritage to take care of itself,” Hyland says. “You have to make an effort to take care of it. It’s important to the world of scholarship, certainly, but it’s also very important to our campus life today. It’s a way of showing how this rich history and spirituality links us to a much wider and deeper tradition that tells us who we are, where we’ve come from and maybe gives us some spiritual tools to shape where we’re going.”

While the Norbertines are a relatively small order – 1,000 members worldwide compared to 18,000 Jesuits – they were one of the largest medieval orders and their libraries were important centers into the 18th century, Hyland says. Like most orders they were almost completely devastated by the successive onslaughts of the Reformation, French Revolution and Napoleon, but then experienced a revival in the 19th century.

The center both focuses attention on the order’s history and on how the Norbertines can inspire today’s world, says Neel, who visited the center in its old location in spring 2008 to celebrate the publication of “Norbert and Early Norbertine Spirituality,” which she co-edited with the Rev. Ted Antry, O.Praem., ’62 of Daylesford Abbey. That was an example of what the center provides: an opportunity for scholars to meet, share ideas and plan new projects on the Norbertine tradition, Neel says.

“Recently, a number of publications have brought the legacy of the medieval Norbertines more readily into the hands of people of our times,” Neel says. “The center will encourage many more such efforts, building connections and fueling discussion, so that the next generation will come fully to appreciate the contribution of the white canons to not only a medieval past but to the spiritual and charitable life of Christianity since St. Norbert.”

Hyland says the center is sparking faculty interest, citing projects on the Norbertines’ role in 20th century Catholicism, biblical scholarship and pastoral work with Hispanics.

“One of the great things about the Norbertines is that they don’t do just one thing. That’s true now, but it’s also true that over their whole history there are Norbertines who have been involved in almost every aspect of church life. There’s a lot there to interest a lot of different people,” Hyland says.

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The heart of a collector

Ten years ago William Klimon bought a 1788 first American edition autobiography by the first American Protestant clergyman to convert to Catholicism.

That book, “An Account of the Conversion of the Reverend Mr. John Thayer,” led to a conversion experience of sorts for Klimon, when he realized it was possible to buy early editions of important books.

“Indeed, even in the digital era, sometimes that is still the only way to get an interesting text,” says Klimon, a Washington, D.C., attorney.

He has since bought several dozen 18th and 19th century editions of the book, making it the largest Thayer collection in private hands, Klimon says.

Klimon also collects other 16th to 21st century Catholic convertiana, including testimonials, autobiographies, memoirs, correspondence, journals, apologetics and polemics in English, French, German, Spanish, Latin, Norwegian, Swedish, Hebrew, Dutch and Italian. “I have some truly rare 17th century works by former Calvinists like the Flemish physician Olivier van Hattem, the French aristocrat Jaques Benjamin, and the Swiss-Italian writer Andrea Cardoini, which in each case may be the only copy in the United States,” Klimon says.

He collected more than 75 editions of the “Confessions” by history’s most famous convert, St. Augustine, and in 2006 he donated them to the Center for Norbertine Studies. “Confessions” in the Klimon Collection range from a late 16th century edition in Latin to an early 21st century English translation by Garry Wills. In between are editions in Latin, English, French, German and Italian.

Klimon made the donation after realizing that he preferred collecting general convertiana, and taking his collection to the next level would take all his collecting resources.

“At that same moment, my friend and classmate from graduate school in the history department at Cornell, Bill Hyland, was made director of the Center for Norbertine Studies. He indicated great interest in acquiring the ‘Confessions’ collection for the center,” Klimon says.

Other possibilities were tempting, including the Augustine collection at Villanova, says Klimon, who wanted scholars to have access. “But the connections between St. Augustine and St. Norbert were obvious to me, and I felt that my collection would be in very good hands in De Pere and would be welcomed into a context of renewed scholarly interest in the Norbertine and Augustinian traditions – not to mention a beautiful new library then on the drawing board.”

Klimon says collectors often seek multiple copies of a single title to understand how a book was made available in different times and places; what editors or readers thought of it; how widespread interest was, as evidenced by translations; and the history of the book trade.

Then there are what Klimon calls less high-minded reasons – the book’s monetary value and bragging rights for a unique collection of rare books.

Klimon finds books through e-Bay, estate sales, book stores, dealer catalogues, book fairs, thrift stores and online dealers.

“I take a fairly academic approach to collecting – an intellectual pursuit with intellectual rewards,” Klimon says. “But I would be lying if I denied that there is a thrill to the hunt, as well. There is definitely a ‘Treasure Island’ aspect to collecting, trying to find that hidden or lost jewel that has eluded everyone else.”

The ability to study a text like the “Confessions” in editions published at different times and in different languages gives scholars new insights into this important work, the earliest extant autobiographical text.
By Kim (Lopas) Sullivan ’95

Video games have come a long way since Pac-Man. Just ask Paul Waelchli, a librarian at the newly dedicated Mulva Library. Waelchli ought to know. He’s been playing video games since a Commodore VIC-20 on a black and white screen.

He has personally experienced the evolution of video games, from those first hand-eye coordination ones that players twitched their way through, to the complex level of involvement of modern video games.

Now he pairs his personal interests with his academic pursuits by introducing strategies from successful gaming to the classroom setting. He is the co-book review editor for the International Journal of Gaming and Computer-Mediated Simulations and he is part of an expert panel on gaming and literacy for the American Library Association.

Waelchli is the campus’s first information literacy and instruction librarian. His job is to help students find, evaluate and apply the information they need. He talks to students about video games because they are familiar, fun and a practical example of the information literacy skills he’s trying to teach. He might start off a workshop talking about one of Nintendo’s Legend of Zelda adventure games. It’s a game that requires both logic and the evaluation of resources on hand to solve a number of puzzles.

Students don’t always think about how their game playing behaviors can apply to an academic setting, so Waelchli helps them make that link. Seeking out information for an assignment is much like collecting an inventory of masks for a Zelda game. Some of the resources, or masks, aren’t going to help you with your task at hand. Students have to evaluate the resources they have to work with, draw their own conclusions, apply the information to the game or to their research and then review whether the need was met.

Waelchli is one of many in his field who have seen parallels between good video gaming strategies and good educational theory. Author of “What Video Games Have to Teach Us About Learning and Literacy” (2003), James Paul Gee has found 36 learning principles embedded into the design of good games. These include the fact that games are set up to encourage active learning; that learners are given information both on-demand and just-in-time; that basic skills are not learned in isolation or out of context.

For example, Gee describes an “insider principle” where the learner is an “insider” or “teacher” and not just a “consumer.” Waelchli was able to put this principle into practice by helping a former colleague create a lesson on American Psychological Association (APA) citations. The students worked in groups to create incorrect APA citations in an attempt to stump not only the other groups, but the professor, librarian and writing center staff.

He says, “The students were empowered and motivated to create content and implicitly needed to not only understand APA basics, but the more obscure details in order to be able to explain their citation errors. It worked. There was laughter coming out of the classroom and the students wanted to stay longer to go through more citations.”

Waelchli now has a dedicated classroom space for library instruction. The technology within the instruction lab, particularly the screen-sharing software installed on the computers, provides for more collaborative learning and discussion among students. Waelchli is eager to get started.

Waelchli plans to take advantage of the classroom space and technology of the new instruction lab by occasionally using video games to begin his workshops. He is clear to point out, however, that he is not on a mission to get video games in all the classrooms. He knows that video games and video gaming strategies are just one tool in teaching students about information literacy. He says, “I’m successful when students are successful within their assignments and within the skill sets of using and evaluating information. That’s ultimately the success, whether that comes through one-on-one help, classroom settings, tutorials and workshops or games.”

Left: Paul Waelchli’s research on understanding, incorporating and disseminating information about video gaming strategies is enriching the classroom experience.
The first bombs fell at 1:52 in the afternoon of Monday, Feb. 23, 1945, a few months before the end of World War II. At 2:03 p.m., 11 minutes later, the town of about 50,000 people was destroyed; the last fires burned themselves out 48 hours later.

Few people survived. My high school and its library were smoldering skeletons.

Of course, once fully ignited, books burn with great intensity. By the time the firestorm had subsided those lovely books had been turned into little heaps of grayish-white puffs of ash, to be blown away by the slightest breeze. Gone with the wind.

As I am sitting here in the comfort of the sun-drenched third floor of the splendid new St. Norbert library, I still recall the sense of deprivation and envy that I experienced decades ago. I am not at all surprised that those feelings would later lead me to make regular pilgrimages to those shrines for books: libraries large and small, public and private, nearby and far away.

I love pilgrimages to begin with. There is something so majestic about cathedrals, that stepping into the inner sanctum. I have the same feelings for libraries. They offer an inner sanctum that just touches the soul.

The world of books and libraries has plenty of heroes and villains, donors and benefactors, destroyers and builders.

I recall my sense of anger when, as a freshman, I discovered that one of the most brutal rulers of antiquity, the Assyrian king Ashurbanipal, had amassed a personal library of more than 20,000 volumes in his capital of Nineveh, complete with a rather modern cataloguing system. A lover of books, yet also quite capable of bleaching the skulls of his enemies and erecting them in the shape of a pyramid, as a warning to all.

One of the most impressive positive figures is one of the pharaohs of the Ptolemy dynasty who systematically built antiquity’s largest library at the seaport of Alexandria. It would not have a rival until our own 19th century, when national and university libraries were created.

This ruler even instructed his customs officers to demand that ships from foreign countries surrender their books and scrolls on board, long enough to be copied by his library scribes.

Yet, several centuries later, as Christianity became a serious contender for Rome’s state religion, the goodly pious bishop of Alexandria torched that splendid edifice, together with its 400,000 “pagan” volumes.

Anyone who cherishes books would have to rank the ancient Romans as heroes. While the versatile and mentally nimble Greeks are usually given the laurels, Rome’s great public and private libraries at one time were the envy of the world. The city of Rome had 28 public libraries two centuries after Christ. When the emperor Caracalla built the gigantic baths named after him, he installed not one but two libraries on the grounds, one for the Greek and one for the Roman classics.

The Middle Ages constitute somewhat of an interlude yet, paradoxically, at the end of that period we find some of the world’s most beautiful libraries, created by the monastic orders (with the Benedictines in the vanguard), and by the papacy in Rome. Ask enough people and, chances are, they would rate the Vatican Library the artistically most glorious of them all.

Closer to us chronologically, the English king Henry VIII dissolved the British and Irish monasteries, which led to the abandonment of their once-so-splendid libraries. No wonder the epic “Beowulf” survived in the form of only one copy.

And then, of course, there are institutions that should have done better. A modern example might be the new British Library (finally separated from its renowned parent, the British Museum). London, with its long tradition and important role in the history of books, got a brownish pile of bricks that, to the uninformed, could easily be mistaken for a tannery.

Upon reflection, the library that I most fondly remember also happens to be the world’s smallest. In war-torn Germany, a few weeks after that firebombing described earlier, an elderly lady discovered that, in one of the bombed-out buildings downtown, a room with a ceiling and three walls had survived. She managed to obtain a tarp (in the form of an abandoned military tent), which became the fourth wall. With four cinder blocks and two wooden boards she constructed a library shelf. Her library holdings were six books.

On the outside of that ruined building she posted this note: “Library open 12-5. No library card needed. Book donations welcome.” It was not only heroic, it was a success. Two weeks later, the shelf held 13 volumes.

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A longer version of this article can be read at www.snc.edu/go/magazine.

Heinz Baader, at home in the Mulva Library.
A legacy to celebrate

When Don Laux ’53 started college 60 years ago, the cost of one semester at St. Norbert was $355.50. He’s sure about that number. Real sure. His mother saved the receipt.

With encouragement from his wife, Sylvia, Don tucked the paper into his shirt pocket the morning of St. Norbert’s first Legacy Brunch. He fished it out several times during the event, delighting family and fellow alumni.

The brunch, hosted by President Tom Kunkel and his wife, Deb, was open to current students whose parents or grandparents attended St. Norbert. The event took place on the final day of Family Weekend this September.

The Laux/Westhoven clan was one of approximately 36 legacy families attending the brunch. Don was primarily influenced to come to St. Norbert by his older brother, Dick Smith ’47.

Don has since influenced others of his family to attend St. Norbert, including both of his daughters, Tricia (Laux) Westhoven ’82 and Sara (Laux) Akin ’85. Tricia met her husband, Doug Westhoven ’81, while they were students. Now, their oldest son, Craig Westhoven ’10, is a senior at St. Norbert.

Doug says he and Tricia were really pleased when Craig chose to enroll. They were confident in the quality of his education and familiar with much of what happens on campus.

Doug says, “It brings back memories for you, it definitely does. He is living in the dorm (VMC) where we used to live. So, that’s really neat. Some of the professors are still around too.”

When asked about his decision to come to St. Norbert, Craig says, “It didn’t have much to do with my parents coming here, more just the feel of the campus – that it just felt right.”

The Rev. Rowland De Peaux, O.Praem., ’48 presided at the wedding of Doug and Tricia Westhoven at Old St. Joe’s Church. He has known many of the legacy families at St. Norbert. His observation is that most of the parents and grandparents of legacy families share a common, deep involvement with the campus. Somehow, says De Peaux, they were able to pass on or explain that passion to their children.

He says “[The children] realize there is something that the parents felt and gained through their experience here that contributed to the kind of person they are, and I think then the son or daughter realizes that and when they came they got that same feeling very quickly.”

Web Extra

Read two more legacy stories in your online magazine: how selling Crayola crayons to the art department brought 11 of the Frett family to St. Norbert; and how a single mother’s determination supported her four children through college.

snc.edu/go/magazine

You asked, we answered!

Starting Jan. 1, alums will be able to click, network and reconnect with a new and improved online community, the KnightClub.

Enhancements include the ability to career network through alum-to-alum job posting and by location. And, members will be able to search for college friends and other alums by social organizations and other affinity group listings.

Watch your e-mail for more details, or consult the next issue of your St. Norbert College Magazine, out next March.

Mark Your Calendars

■ Dec. 5 Breakfast with Santa
■ Dec. 7 Golden Knights Christmas Mass and Luncheon
■ Jan. 30 Alumni Hockey Game
■ Jan. 30 Chicagoland Alumni Winter Carnival, Classes of the 1970s

■ Young alums, join the Classes of 1999-2009 for the first annual “Raise Your Glass” event, at St. Norbert Abbey.

This Dec. 3 wine-tasting will be, in effect, a six-month reunion for the recently graduated class of 2009, and serves as a means of introduction, for them, to the larger community of young alumni.
Births/Adoptions

1989 Lisa (Waty) and Jim Heise, Germantown, Wis., have adopted a son, Daniel James. Daniel was born on June 3, 2007, in Guatemala.


1992 Teri (Maglo) and Trevor Goins, Denver, adopted their first child, a son, Ahn Paul, 1 1⁄2, on July 14, 2009.

1993 Kathleen (Graven) and Michael Frost, Seymour, Wis., a son, Thomas Michael, May 19, 2009.

1993 Holly (Conen) and Scott Hera, Green Bay, a daughter, Allison Elizabeth, Feb. 25, 2009.

1994 Shannon (Grill) and Stuart Swaziek, Menomonee Falls, Wis., a daughter, Maryah Izabella, May 26, 2009. Maryah joins sister Providence, 1 1⁄2.

1994 Beth (Schultz) and Andrew Peters, Waukesha, Wis., a daughter, Sylvie Claire, July 16, 2009. Sylvie joins sister Beth, 3, and brother T.J., 6, and sister Paige, 5.


1995 Ellen (Wucherpfennig) and David Piotrowski, West Allis, Wis., a daughter, Talia Marie, Sept. 2, 2008.

1995 Kristin (Schaefer) and Derek Kozlowski, Menomonee Falls, Wis., a daughter, Olivia Lucille, Oct. 4, 2008. Olivia joins brothers Tyler and Garrison.

1997 Kristin (LaPlante) and Mike Leaman, Mequon, Wis., a daughter, Lola K, Oct. 2, 2008.


1997 Kristin (McCormack) and William Schroeder, Greenville, Wis., a daughter, Elise, June 7, 2009.


1998 Dana (Gosse) and Andrew Ferraro, Pearland, Texas, a daughter, Elle Marie, May 5, 2009. Elle joins brother Caden, 4.


1999 Erica (Claussen) and David Vetrovec, Middleton, Wis., a daughter, Natalie Virginia, March 27, 2009.


1999 Julie (Brohier) and Kevin Heller, Long Island, N.Y., a daughter, Sylvie Claire, July 16, 2009. Sylvie joins sister Keira Mavee, 2.

2000 Becky (Bruss) and Ben Davies ’99, Green Bay, Wis., a daughter, Elizabeth Sue, March 9, 2009. Elizabeth joins big sister Abigail.

2000 Kristen (Lenzner) and Aaron Peterson, Chatham, Mich., a son, Josiah Aaron, April 20, 2009.

2000 Beth (Schultz) and Andrew Peters, Waukesha, Wis., a daughter, Lillian, Aug. 24, 2009.


2001 Elizabeth Hewitt and Brian Kubik, Appleton, Wis., a daughter, Estelle Elizabeth, April 8, 2009.

2001 Shannon (Dufty) and Ryan Maguire, Lake Forest, Ill., a daughter, Claire, April 8, 2009.

2001 Heather (Olm) and Brian Dunn, Brown Deer, Wis., a son, Calvin Brian, April 12, 2009. Calvin joins brother Abigail.

2001 Donna (Chaney) and Mike Matuszewski ’00, Eagan, Minn., a daughter, Mary Katherine, June 19, 2009. Mary joins sisters Grace, 4, and Beth, 3, and brother Joey, 2.

2002 Kristina (Callan) and Scott Rolo, Menasha, Wis., a son, Brennan, April 27, 2008.

2002 Carson and Allison Ditze, De Pere, a daughter, Brooklyn Marie, Nov. 4, 2008.

2002 Sara (Raddatz) and Joe Anderson ’01, Milwaukee, Wis., a son, Elliot Archer, March 31, 2009.

2002 Laura (Weiland) and Owen Yaklin, Albuquerque, N.M., a daughter, Sara Jane, May 13, 2009.

2002 Kyle and Molly Petersen, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, a daughter, Olivia Margaret, April 16, 2009.

2003 Jessica (Newton) and Curt McReynolds, Yorkville, Ill., a son, Nolan Wes, April 22, 2009. Nolan joins sister Abigail,

2003 Michaela (Crawford) and Tyler Wickman ’05, Ashland, Wis., a son, Lincoln Wallace, Aug. 27, 2009.

2005 Josh and Rose Frank, Green Bay, a daughter, Maggie, Aug. 15, 2008.

2008 Elizabeth (Kirchner) and Nicholas Hammeter, Fort Benning, Ga., a daughter, Anna Elizabeth, May 25, 2009.

Marriages


1999 Carie Gorals and Aaron Hertzberg, Aug. 8, 2008. They live in Providence, R.I.


2002 Adriana Nigrelli and David Behr, March 27, 2009. They live in Denver.


2006 John and Amber (Wene) Okray, April 7, 2009. They live in Janesville, Wis.


Deaths

1949 James Goodavich, of Milwaukee, died Feb. 15, 2009, at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and seven children.

1951 Kenneth Mommaerts, of Bella Vista, Ark., died Feb. 7, 2009, at the age of 79. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict and later worked for IBM. He is survived by his wife, Joletta, and three of their four children.

1951 Gaylord “Jiggs” Gigot, of Green Bay, died April 13, 2009, at the age of 79. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force before returning to Green Bay, where he founded several businesses. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and four children.

1955 John Robbins, of Flint, Mich., died May 12, 2009, at the age of 75. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict and later worked for the credit bureau Dun and Bradstreet. He is survived by his wife, Charlene, and three daughters.

1957 Thomas Gorzek, of Greendale, Wis., died Feb. 10, 2009, at the age of 73. He served his country in the U.S. Army and later worked as a teacher at Fritschi Middle School and as a basketball coach at Bay View High School, both in Milwaukee. He is survived by his three children.

1959 Richard Kons, of Little Chute, Wis., died Feb. 22, 2009, at the age of 71. He lived and worked in Minnesota for many years. He is survived by his wife, Peg, seven children and two stepdaughters.

1965 Robert Haas, of Milwaukee, died April 9, 2009, at the age of 69. He is survived by his wife, Connie, and five children.

1969 Christine (Chilevich) Ferry, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., died Jan. 15, 2009, at the age of 62. Her career encompassed roles as teacher, office manager and company president. She is survived by husband, Daniel ’68, and two children.
A new song to sing

Sometimes you just feel in your heart its time to set out in a new direction, says Sarah Parks (Music).

Parks was a tenured professor of voice at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, pondering the passage of her life in music education, when the name St. Norbert College just seemed to keep cropping up. Now, as new director of the college’s music program, she is excited about heading a department looking for creative challenges and ready to try some new avenues “to see what comes up that’s good for us.”

“I love music but I’m passionate about education,” Parks says. “I love to see learning. I love to see kids beginning to take it seriously, to understand why they have to invest fully to get the most out of it. It’s fun to see them flip from ‘I have to do this’ to ‘I get it. I know why I have to do this.’ Living out the full human potential.”

A fourth-generation St. Olaf alum, it thrills Parks to find a similar sense of tradition at St. Norbert. “There are parents who just had such a positive experience, they want their kids to have it, too.” She would love to see student musicians at all levels have the chance, as she did, to step off campus and perform in venues ranging from cathedrals to high schools, still as other places I’ve lived can be at the same hour. Buses still bamboozled their way past us with blaring engines and hissing brakes. Taxis wove in and out, too, bleating their small horns.

Alongside the roads, clots of people spilled out of dark bars and dance clubs, standing together or sitting on chairs, as if making a show of whoever passed.

“... Right now, it’s about 3:10 on a Sunday afternoon. I’ve got the boom box going, playing a CD of upbeat music I burned to appease the apartment’s sad ghost. In the main building across from me, another birthday party builds, and another baseline booms out through the cluster of balloons tied to the metal grate over the open window.

“... A steady whir of traffic grows and whooshes in the distance. A motorcycle’s acid blat rises for a moment above the rest, swelling like a giant mosquito. A man yells. A rooster answers. Som eone or som ething clumps, thump thump thump bang, in the stairwell. A breeze stirs the leaves, a pleasant susurus with a cooling underhiss.”

An Arctic adventure

In August 2009, Mark Bockenhauer (Geography) took a group of five educators on a Lindblad Expedition to Svalbard, an island group halfway between the northernmost point of Norway and the North Pole.

Bockenhauer was asked to lead the 11-day trip by the Education Foundation at National Geographic, with whom he has worked in many capacities over the years, in order to test the expedition.

National Geographic plans to send more educators in the future and asked Bockenhauer and his team to create ideas for classroom activities and ways future participants could get the most out of the trip.

The group was stationed in Longyearbyen, the northernmost city in the world, and spent each day visiting a different part of the Svalbard island chain, observing the landforms and animal life of each area — including polar bears.

“It was an awesome trip and a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I feel honored to have been selected to participate,” says Bockenhauer.

Sarah Parks works with the women’s chorus during their afternoon class.
A collaboration of the arts

Soprano Yi-Lan Niu (Music) and the Rev. Jim Neilson, O.Praem., ’88 presented a shared art and music event Sept. 26 at St. Norbert Abbey.

Stimulated by the sacred environment of the abbey, the artistic legacy of the religious imagination and images drawn from ancient Chinese poetry, this concert celebrated the “art and artistry of meditation,” seeking to combine and present both Eastern and Western aesthetics, the visual and the aural, the permanent and the ethereal, and the rhythms and movements of natural and religious rituals.

Brian Pirman (Art) designed the poster (right).

Linda O’Keefe (Registrar’s Office) and Marge Barrette (Campus Card and Information Services) were honored for their 40 years of service to the college at the President’s Dinner this summer. Dave Pankratz (Computer Science) marked 35 years of service. Donna Schaut (Office of Communications), Kathy Ritter (Information Technology), Larry Thorsen (Mathematics) and Dave Wegge (Political Science) celebrated 30 years at the college.

While not quite the phenomenon of the Harry Potter books, Stephenie Meyer’s “Twilight” saga – “Twilight,” “New Moon,” “Eclipse” and “Breaking Dawn” – comes close. John Pennington (English) has been examining “the ideological blood that courses through the veins of the series.” That blood, he asserts, feeds Meyer’s views on gender, class and race, which are filtered through the dominant ideological force that controls the series – her Mormon religion.

Pennington was one of the featured speakers in a daylong program of talks planned for SNC Day, the campus open house in September. His lecture, titled “‘Twilight’: Productive or Problematic Ideology in Stephenie Meyer’s Vampire Saga?” drew young fans and their parents, as well as those who have followed the success of the series with a more critical eye.

A chapter by Tim Flood and Nelson Ham (Geology) on “International Field Trips in the Undergraduate Geology Curriculum – Philosophy and Perspectives” has been accepted for publication in the Geological Society of America’s Special Paper, “Field Geology Education: Historical Perspectives and Modern Approaches.”

Steve Correia (Teacher Education) presented on state trends and perspectives on rural education at the Wisconsin’s Rural Schools and Communities Conference. He has spoken several times on Wisconsin Public Radio on the topic.

Donald Salmon (College Advancement), Amy Kussow-Leonhard (Facilities), James Hodgson (Biology) and Joshua Jones ’10 were honored as this year’s Founder’s Award recipients at the annual Founder’s Day Prayer Breakfast in October. The awards are given to current employees and students who advance the Norbertine principles of community, spiritual commitment, service, collegiality and learning through their lives.

Theatre Studies welcomes back emeritus professor Kelly Collum to direct its spring production, “Book of Days” by Landford Wilson. April Beiswenger, who joined the discipline this year, will head up design for the production.

An exhibit at the Brown County Library showcases illustrations by Nick Patton ’03 (Office of Communications). The show, “Art of the Illustration,” reflects new work by Patton, an illustrator of children’s books. “Art of the Illustration” can be seen through Dec. 11.

Vicky Tashjian (History) is the author of the Africa section in “Africa and the Middle East” (2009), the second volume in The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Global Medieval Life and Culture. The complete work encompasses the six major areas of the globe, each section contributed by prominent historians with regional expertise.

The Rev. Robert Vande Hey, O.Praem., ’46 (Biology, Emeritus), whose doctoral dissertation on mosquito genetics earned international recognition, has died at the age of 84.

Vande Hey received his bachelor’s degree in philosophy from St. Norbert College in 1946 and a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Notre Dame in 1961. He worked as a member of the biology faculty at St. Norbert from 1955 until his retirement in 1989.

Vande Hey’s doctoral dissertation on mosquito genetics led to a post-doctoral fellowship from the National Institute of Health’s U.S. Public Health Service to study at the University of Mainz, Germany. While in Germany, he continued his genetics research and his reports were published in numerous professional journals.

Vande Hey, who died June 10, 2009, is remembered fondly by his colleagues for his many contributions to the biology discipline at St. Norbert.

Carol and James Hodgson (Biology) have particularly fond memories. “In 1971,” says Carol, “President Robert Christian and academic dean Donald King decided, because of financial conditions at the college, not to renew for a second year the contract of the most recent biology hire, a young assistant professor named James Hodgson.

“To preserve Jim’s position, and with the approval of Harry Baeten, chair of the natural sciences, Fr. Van took a year’s sabbatical. Because of his selfless action, for which we remain indebted, Jim was given another contract and went on to spend his entire career at St. Norbert College.

“Bob Vande Hey was a truly rare man, of many virtues.”
Track star blogs for national audience

Student-athlete Jenny Scherer ’10 has the inside scoop on the college’s track and field program, and now the whole country knows it. Her new blog on the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s (NCAA) web site reveals just what life is like as a dedicated runner.

Scherer was contacted by the managing editor of NCAA.com about writing for the college athletic association’s recently developed student-athlete blog program. She is one of only two Division III bloggers for track and field. “It’s been a lot of fun writing it from week to week and I’ve gotten a lot of comments back to me from people who really seem to enjoy reading about the life of a college student-athlete,” says Scherer.

With more than 380,000 participants in the NCAA program, this All-American award-winner feels honored that she was selected to be one of the 90 bloggers on the site. Blog topics range from road-trip tales to inclement weather, and from teammate and national champion Ashley Graybill ’09 to Scherer’s Australian shepherd, Skyler. She occasionally concludes entries with a favorite web site pertaining to her love of running — a sport that, in fact, had not particularly piqued her interest until she came to St. Norbert.

“During my four years in high school I participated in soccer during the spring. I ran cross-country … but it was always just a way to stay in shape for basketball, which was the sport I lived to play,” Scherer explains in her blog.

But after a disappointing freshman season as a member of the St. Norbert women’s basketball team, Scherer had to face the fact that she was simply not good enough to play at the collegiate level: “So, being the sports nut that I am, I contacted the track coach just to see if he would have a spot for me on the team. Turns out there most definitely was, as I quickly became the sole female distance runner on the team.”

Running in her first-ever track meet, Scherer placed third in the 3K and knew she had found her true athletic calling.

Thirteen St. Norbert students had the opportunity to make up their own minds about the controversial international visit by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad when they were able to attend a briefing by the Iranian president.

The students were invited to the U.N. by the Iranian mission. They were joined by student representatives from Yale, NYU, Columbia and Hofstra.

While in New York City, they also had the opportunity to meet political theorist Benjamin Barber, author of “Jihad vs. McWorld.” The meeting was facilitated by Kalin Drzewiecki-Sezer ’01, who is currently a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the public policy research and advocacy organization, Demos.

“It was a wonderful educational experience for our students,” says Gratzia Villarroel (Political Science), who went to New York City with the students.

Her interest in medicine has taken Bradleigh Zito ’10 into volunteer experiences at Bellin Health, House of Hope, the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, St. Elizabeth Hospital and Relay for Life. That service has now won the senior this year’s $1,000 Employee Endowed Scholarship.

Zito, a biology major with minors in both chemistry and psychology, intends to become a physician’s assistant.

Yuan (Alifie) Ma ’09, the first student from St. Norbert to study abroad at the University of Manchester, has received the Manchester Leadership Award from the English university. While in Manchester, Ma completed a Leadership in Action course and undertook 60 hours of service-learning while volunteering at Oxfam.

And Kassie Lang ’10 has been named one of 24 student ambassadors for Australian Education International. Lang spent last fall semester studying abroad at the University of the Sunshine Coast. She says, “as a biology and environmental science major, I had heaps of great opportunities to learn about Australian wildlife in the classroom, and firsthand on field courses, where I studied rocky shore and tidal flat ecology on North Stradbroke Island and was amazed at the abounding wildlife on Fraser Island. Despite all the great opportunities in the classroom, the most beneficial and fun aspects of my Australian experience took place outside of my classes. I became friends with some incredible Australian students who introduced me to the finer points of Australian culture, like sporting events (muddy footy matches) and world-class cuisine (Tim-Tams anyone?).

“I also had the opportunity to travel around Australia; up to Cairns to snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef and hike in the Daintree Rainforest, to the Brisbane area for some surfing, and to Sydney to check out the Opera House and Blue Mountains.”

The 55th Biennial Conclave for Tau Kappa Epsilon convened early August in New Orleans. Among the attendees were president of Tau Kappa Epsilon’s Sigma Xi chapter at St. Norbert, Seth Wanta ’10, vice president Steve Schumacher ’11 and members Eric Ming ’10 and Dan Schaefer ’09.

These four Tekes made their way to the conclave and the Sigma Xi chapter received five national awards. Among those awards were three excellence-level honors for community service,
When the new praise and worship group presented the first service of Common Prayer this academic year, James Schnell ’12 told the congregation he had hoped to start a praise and worship group on campus even before he arrived as a freshman. The Rev. Jim Baraniak, O.Praem., ’88 encouraged him to put his plan into action and introduced him to Jessie Smith ’11 and other musicians. Smith says, “This is our favorite way to pray.” The group meets regularly for Sunday evening services after the 7 p.m. Mass at Old St. Joe’s.

2009 Nubbie Awards honoring the service and leadership achievements of students have been awarded to Max Klos ’12, Tara Marcell ’10, Stephanie Schauer ’10, Justin Kluessner ’10, Emily Schwanke ’10, Samantha Kretz ’10, Andrew Scholz ’10, Michael Mendez ’10, Stephanie Lambert ’10, Tara Vanden Elsen ’10, Breanne Delahancy ’10, Tom McCarthy ’10, Emily Czarnik-Neimeyer ’09, Suzan Odabasi ’09, Elizabeth Groshek ’11, Stephanie Birmingham ’09, Adi Redzic ’09, Lindsay Koeppel ’09, Connor Thornton ’09, Melissa Tyson ’09, Katherine Trzaska ’09, Ryan Pavlik ’09, Dominique Carter ’09, Dan Schaefer ’09, Caitlin Froemming ’09, William Korinko ’09, Stacy Szczepanski ’09, Heather Schulze ’09, Linda Maier ’09, Colin Gulling ’09, Kay Lechner ’09, Brian Fischer ’09, Rachelle Barina ’09, Matt Muenster ’09, Avery Garcia ’11, Amanda Muehlbauer ’11, Maggie Kitchen ’11, Aaron Benson ’11, Kevin Funk ’11, Cathy Petrilli ’11, Alexander DeVillers ’11, Anna Czarnik-Neimeyer ’11, Bryant Scherer ’11 and Sarah Wegner ’11.

Mel Nicks Awards were presented to DeVillers and Sarah Wegner ’11. Maggie Kitchen ’11 and Stephanie Schauer ’10 were honored with the Father Gene Gries Endowed Student Life Scholarship. The Harry Maier Community Service Scholarship went to Anna Czarnik-Neimeyer ’11. Others recognized at the event were Emily Schwanke ’10 (Ashmore and Harvey Award), Stephanie Lambert ’10 (Leadership In Action), Breanne Delahancy ’10 (Voss Leadership Award), Adi Redzic ’09 (Richard C. Rankin Award), Ryan Pavlik ’09 (St. Norbert College Legacy Award), William Korinko ’09 (Donald and Judy Hendrickson Family Outreach Award) and Rachelle Barina ’09 (Ethel D. Augustine Memorial Fund Award).

Meet the Class of 2013

This year’s entering freshmen were the first who were able to meet their new classmates in cyberspace before they ever set foot on campus. Their sense of their identity as the Class of 2013 — “best class ever!” — took shape while they were still in high school. On their very own Facebook page, they swapped news of academic and athletic goals, roommates and res halls.

On Aug. 30, all 545 of them — part of the largest total enrollment in the college’s history — walked together to Convocation, marking the official start of their college career. Among their numbers, students who:

• Toured Western Europe alone at age 16.
• Earned a private pilot’s license.
• Played in the Little League Girl’s World Series.
• Wrote, applied for and received a grant of $2,000 for the Boys and Girls Club of Milwaukee.
• Competed in equestrian events and won the UPHA Cup.
• Earned the rank of Eagle Scout.
• Earned the Girl Scout Gold Award.
• Attended Latin Convention — three times.
• Won a state championship in power-lifting.
• Earned a black belt in tae kwon do.
• Served on mission trips to Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, France, Dominican Republic and Kenya, and across the United States.

Six were foreign exchange students; 125 captains a varsity sport; 306 took at least one Advanced Placement course in high school (one student took nine); 74 took college courses while in high school; 129 students had a family member who graduated from, or currently attends, St. Norbert College.

And they come from 17 countries: Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Namibia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Ukraine, the United States and Vietnam.

Cathedral calling

Bishop David Ricken (center) has appointed Michael Poradek ’12 (right) as assistant episcopal master of ceremonies for the Diocese of Green Bay. Poradek has been a pontifical server at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay for several years. In his new role, he will serve under Deacon Michael Vincent (left), assisting at Masses when the bishop is present.

academic success and extracurricular activities, along with two honorable mentions for chapter size and alumni relations. Nearly 800 Tekes from across the U.S. attended, and among them, Schaefer was one of the eight fraternity brothers to be named “Top Teke.”

Anna Reardon ’12 had the opportunity this summer to decorate sets, conduct historical research on prop accuracy and engage in small design work as part of her internship on the set of the film “No God, No Master.” Her experience in the arts department on the Milwaukee set saw her working alongside art directors from Los Angeles and Academy Award-nominated actor David Strathairn.

Resident assistants from Madeline-Lorraine and Bergstrom Halls experienced a different kind of residential environment this summer when the family of Zach Parmeter ’10 invited the whole group to their home for a weekend of fun, food and friendship.

Sharon Parmeter, mother of Zach, Laura ’11 and Mary ’13, wrote about the experience in UKnighted, the newsletter for St. Norbert parents. “Zach has learned about the true meaning of ‘community’ as an SNC student,” she says. “It is wonderful that one college can offer so much, yet maintain a personal atmosphere.”
By Art Kabelowski

Jackie Robinson made history in 1947, breaking major league baseball’s color barrier. Chuck Holton ’52, then a senior-to-be at Milwaukee’s St. Benedict the Moor High School, definitely took notice.

“Jackie Robinson was one of my heroes. He set an example for everyone,” Holton says. “That helped me a lot, to see what he was going through.”

At the time, Holton had no idea that he was destined to become a trailblazer, too.

Today, at age 79, Holton looks back on a life filled with achievement.

After starring in basketball and track for St. Norbert, Holton became the first African-American to graduate from the college, in 1952. He went on to play six years with the Harlem Globetrotters, then returned to his hometown to become a social worker and served almost four years as the director of the House of Peace organization.

“I was familiar with St. Norbert College because we made it to the state Catholic high school basketball tournament a couple of times, and it was played there,” Holton says.

“After I graduated, my pastor at St. Benedict was anxious for me to go on to school, and when he mentioned St. Norbert, I was interested. I got some [financial] help from the Catholic Knights organization, and I did some work on campus to help take care of the cost of school.”

It all happened quickly. As Holton recalls, his decision to attend St. Norbert took place around Labor Day of 1948, but Holton thrived nonetheless.

“I was there ‘B.C.’ – before co-ed – and so it was a much different setup and layout than it is now,” says Holton, who last visited the campus about four years ago. “In my first year I did some work in the dining room, setting tables for the college and the high school, and in my second year I started working in the publicity director’s office, covering the athletic programs.

“A number of the priests at St. Norbert were very influential in some of the classes I took. It was kind of close to home, and that made it easier.

“I was a shy person, coming from a small, all-black high school to an all-white college, but I didn’t encounter any problems. I was so busy trying to get my education that I really didn’t think about it much.”

Holton was named sports editor of the St. Norbert student newspaper as a junior, then became editor-in-chief as a senior. He was selected for “Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges,” was inducted into the national scholastic honor society Delta Epsilon Sigma, and earned four letters in both basketball and track.

“We played against DePaul and we beat Marquette in its gym in 1951,” Holton recalls. “That was pleasing to me because Marquette didn’t offer me a scholarship, and they had a habit of offering scholarships to top players from the
Catholic Conference.”

Upon Holton’s graduation in 1952, a friend who knew Abe Saperstein, founder and coach of the Globetrotters, got Holton a spot in a tryout camp in Chicago.

“I was fortunate enough to be successful in the tryout,” Holton says. “We had three units of the Trotters that year, one on the East Coast, one on the West Coast and ours, which was based in Chicago and played mostly local teams that year.”

Eventually, Holton’s brainstorming with the Globetrotters took him from coast to coast, including games against the infamous Washington Generals. He visited Europe, South America and northern Africa as a basketball ambassador with the Globetrotters.

“Basketball is a world game now, but back then most people weren’t familiar with it, particularly in Europe,” Holton says.

After leaving the Globetrotters in 1958, Holton returned to Milwaukee. He served as a social worker with the Milwaukee County Department of Social Services, then worked with the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services from 1967 through his retirement in 1998.

In 1997, he was tabbed by founder Brother Booker Ashe, O.F.M., Cap., to lead the House of Peace organization, which provides emergency food, clothing, shelter and outreach programs to the poor in Milwaukee.

“I went down there to volunteer, and they put me to work,” Holton says. “I was very close to the Capuchin fathers from St. Benedict, and a Capuchin priest ran the [House of Peace] program. So it was nice to be able to do something.”

Holton still resides in Milwaukee, where he and his wife of 40 years, Carol, raised three children and are now enjoying their four grandchildren. As he sees it, the wisdom of his life experience boils down to one simple point.

“People will often talk about how things were back in the ‘good old days,’ as compared to now,” he says. “It’s just that what you’re exposed to during one point in time is so much different than what you might have seen in a different period. I’ve learned to say that we’re just products of our times.”

1969 Thomas Edward Gibbons died Jan. 16, 2009, at the age of 61, and among those present at his funeral service were many friends from St. Norbert. Tom had been a 30-year resident of Mundelein, Ill., where he raised his three children together with his wife of 38 years, Nancy (Middendorf) ’70. Months before his death, Tom and Nancy had retired to La Grange, Ill., Nancy’s hometown.

1970 Donald Richter, of Ephraim, Wis., died May 7, 2009, at the age of 63. He worked as a choral teacher at Abbot Pennings High School and later at Notre Dame Academy in Green Bay, as well as serving as the organist at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. More recently, he worked at the Ephraim Wastewater Treatment Plant in Ephraim and served as organist and choir director at Stella Maris in Sister Bay. He is survived by his wife, Frances, and three children.

1972 Michael Harvey, of Pewaukee, Wis., died April 3, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, and mother, Velma.

1981 Timothy Willems, of De Pere, died May 5, 2009, at the age of 51. He worked at Milprint Inc. and Bemis Company Inc. He is survived by his wife, Cindy, and four sons.

1984 H. David Ysebaert, of Green Bay, died Feb. 22, 2009, at the age of 69. He worked as a tax accountant for more than 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Jane, and his sons, John and Jim.

1987 Michael Millett, of Minneapolis, died April 25, 2009, at the age of 44. A talented musician, Millett performed in many choral groups and theatre productions. He is survived by his mother, Peggy, and five siblings.

1993 Christie (Widelski) Loewe, of Chicago, died April 18, 2009, at the age of 37. She is survived by her daughter, Faith, her parents and her sister, Amy.

Class Notes

1953 Bernard Olejniczak has accepted a position at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh as chair of the curriculum committee.

1968 Gail Mitchell Aggen won “Best In Show” at the Imago Dei Art Show in Kansas in October 2006 for her painting “Packin’ to Paradise.”


1970 Glen Yurievich has been named chief executive officer of Outlook Group Corp.

1971 Phil Schumacher has been recognized with the Advanced Certified Fundraising Executive designation by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. He currently serves as executive director of Gunderson Lutheran Medical Foundation in La Crosse, Wis.


1976 Patricia Vickman received the Woman of Achievement Award at the annual Chamber of Commerce meeting earlier this year in Oshkosh, Wis. Patricia serves as the Oshkosh Area School District’s executive director of administration.

1976 Aimee Berner was appointed principal at Giles and Associates Consultancy, a Chicago health care strategy firm. Berner is a speaker at national and international health care conferences, including the Decade of the Bone and Joint International Conference.

1976 Mary Harp-Jirschele has been awarded the 2009 Celebrating Our Volunteers Hanns Kretzschmar Award for Excellence in the Arts. Harp-Jirschele heads the Fox Cities Symphony Orchestra’s board of directors and has served on the boards of the Appleton Art Center, Fox Cities Children’s Museum and the Fox River Area Girl Scout Council.

1979 Lionel Lenz was appointed chief financial officer of Kaplan Higher Education. Kaplan provides educational opportunities to thousands of students in both campus-based and online operations throughout the U.S. Lenz is responsible for strategic financial leadership, including management of accounting, collections, financial planning and analysis, and oversight of financial aid operations.

1979 Bernard Sanders has seen his recent work, 12 choral preludes, published by Concordia Publishing House of St. Louis. Sanders currently serves as the music director for two parishes in Tutlingen, Germany.

1982 Judy (Reezen) Tegge received her master’s degree in educational psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in December. She currently works as a counselor at Ozaukee Family Services, a non-profit agency. Tegge resides in Cedarburg, Wis., with her husband, Mark, and two teenage children, Nathan and Makena.

1983 Lisa Mary (Wolf) Espingardas is working as a preschool music teacher in the school system of Oliveira do Hospital, Portugal.

1983 Joseph Phelps has been named chair of the department of advertising and public relations at the University of Alabama College of Communication and Information Services. Phelps joined the university as an assistant professor in 1990.

1987 Michael Conard, accountant at Hawkins, Ash, Baptie and Company, has received his Certified Public Accountant designation from the state of Wisconsin.

1987 Chris Remington and Katie (Doyle) Fleming, ’87, both employees of Trivera Interactive in Germantown, Wis., co-presented on the topic “Using Social Media to Impact Your Position in the Search Engines” at Social Media University Milwaukee this summer.

1989 Christopher Pellowski has been promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.
1990 Kevin Revolinski has published “Backroads & Byways of Wisconsin,” for which he crafted 12 distinct itineraries that will help travelers uncover the real Wisconsin. Revolinski is the author of numerous other books, and his articles and photography have appeared in a variety of publications, including the Chicago Tribune, Wisconsin State Journal and Madison’s Isthmus.

1991 Kara (Wymelenberg) Eulgen received a master’s in organizational leadership from Norwich University in June. She lives in Port Washington, Wis.


1991 Jennifer (Basiks) Kotz has accepted the position of corporate director of marketing for HCM Inc., in Jackson, Miss.

1991 Heather (Leisk) Richtfort accepted a position as a financial management analyst for the Navy’s NAVFAC Midwest division. She works at the Great Lakes Naval Base in Great Lakes, Ill.

1992 Jim Brannigan was promoted to supervisor of the Adult Probation Department of Cook County, Ill. Brannigan currently works in the field services division of the home confinement unit, as well as in GPS tracking of sex offenders and domestic violence offenders.

1993 Eric Jacobson has been promoted to major in the U.S. Army and received the Silver Star on March 15 at the Pentagon for combat heroism in Iraq. In May 2009 he earned his master’s degree in public policy management (MPM) from Georgetown University.

1993 Tim Styka graduated from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh in May 2009 with a master’s in business administration. He graduated with honors, received the Outstanding Student Award and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the National Honor Society of Business.

1995 Martin Brick recently earned his Ph.D. in British literature from Marquette University and has accepted a tenure-track position at Ohio Dominican University.

1995 Lynn (Petersen) Bub has accepted a position as associate principal at Campbellsport (Wis.) High School.

1995 Brian Foster recently finished 35th out of 87 in the Professional Bowlers Association South Region Open. He works as the head football coach for the Norcross Blue Devils, an eighth-grade football team in Norcross, Ga.

1996 Melissa Collum recently finished working on a Fulbright fellowship in Rwanda. She studied the education system in the African country, as well as the effects of water within the political and community system. Collum spent four weeks in Rwanda working in a group with 11 other teachers, and two more weeks on her own.

The power of caring and community

A group of St. Norbert alumni came out to support Shannon Maguire ’01 and her family at this year’s Cystic Fibrosis Walk in Chicago. Maguire’s baby daughter, Claire, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis when she was two weeks old.

Shannon and her husband, Ryan, supplied coffee, lunch and T-shirts for Team Maguire, as well as the team slogan, “Claire for a Cure.” Shannon says, “CF is a life-shortening disease and we are so blessed to have the support of our SNC friends as we deal with it. “Claire is already taking medicines to help her live longer and grow big and strong. We are hoping that a cure for CF is close so that she can live a full, happy and healthy life.”

At the abbey

The Rev. Stephen Rossey, O.Praem., ’56, above, celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination this summer. A skilled enamelist whose work has received many awards, Rossey earned his master’s of fine arts from the University of Notre Dame in 1966.

■ The Feast of St. Augustine this year saw extra reason to celebrate at the abbey as the Rev. John Tourangeau, O.Praem., ’81 professed Solemn Vows. He first entered the abbey in 1978 and was ordained on June 6, 1986.

■ Matthew Dougherty ’09 of Waukesha, Wis., entered the novitiate at St. Norbert Abbey on Aug. 27, 2009. And Graham Golden of Albuquerque and Stephen Gaertner ’88 of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., were vested as novices at Santa Maria de la Vid Priory in Albuquerque, N.M., a daughter house of the De Pere abbey.

■ Sister Judith Miller, C.S.J., has joined the staff of the Norbertine Center for Spirituality at St. Norbert Abbey. She will offer spiritual direction and various programs on prayer, faith and women in the church, as well as facilitating retreats and days of reflection. Miller is a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis Province.
Neighborhood watch

By Jeff Kurowski

The job market can wait for six 2009 college graduates. Dan Brunelli ’09, Jacob Sircey ’09, Francis Beaumier ’09, Lindsay Koeppel ’09, Marti Teske and David Bikowski form the first-ever Norbertine Volunteer Community.

This program of St. Norbert Abbey is intended for post-college, single, young adults committed to living in community and sharing their time and talents in the Old North Neighborhood of Green Bay. The volunteers started their 11-month term on Aug. 1. They were commissioned at St. Norbert Abbey on Sept. 9.

Norbertine Volunteer Community members serve 30 hours per week for a specific agency or ministry. They spend an additional 10 hours per week assisting residents in the neighborhood. The young adults currently serve at Nicolet Elementary School, Boys and Girls Club, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Golden House, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary and Family Childcare Resources of Northeast Wisconsin.

“The point was to find programs that match the skills and interests of the volunteer,” says Ellen Mommaerts, director of the community. “We want to give them further experience in their field of study.”

Brunelli, who earned a degree in environmental science at St. Norbert, is enjoying his opportunity to serve at the Wildlife Sanctuary.

“I’m working outside with invasive species,” he says. “I’m helping the park ranger close buildings for the winter and working on the trails. I think this experience is going to be very fulfilling.”

Beaumier graduated from St. Norbert with a degree in computer science and Spanish. He is developing a web site for Family Child Resources and volunteering at Golden House.

This experience provides an opportunity for discernment, he says.

“I realized that I wanted a year to give back and reflect,” he says. “I’m considering the priesthood, so this is a chance to live in community and see if community life is right for me.”

“It’s an adjustment to live in community,” says Mommaerts. “They are learning each other’s prayer styles, likes and dislikes. Living in the area that you serve is intentional. We have made a visual commitment to the neighborhood by buying this house. We want to be a part of the neighborhood, not apart from the neighborhood.”

The volunteers share the cooking, cleaning and prayer leadership duties. They pray together twice a day. The young adults receive a food allowance, gas allowance, room and board, health insurance and a monthly stipend. The community’s 501c status allows for student loan deferments.

The idea that the Norbertines should offer a new service opportunity in the Green Bay/De Pere area originated with Abbot Gary Neville, O.Praem., ’73. The Rev. Jay Fostner, O.Praem., ’84 and Dan Robinson, director of the St. Norbert College Center for Community Service and Learning, took the proposal of a volunteer community to the Norbertine community and it was approved in June 2008.

Koeppel, who studied psychology and history at St. Norbert, is using the experience to discover her career path. She serves at both the Wildlife Sanctuary and Nicolet School.

The response to the volunteer community has been positive, she says.

“When we were introduced at the school, some of the teachers asked us about giving 11 months for service,” she says. “They are appreciative that we are doing this. We have received some applause at the school, which is fun.”
Gerry Diaz ’04 worked as an intern in the office of communications as a student, and lived in Victor McCormick Residence Hall as a sophomore. Here, he writes about his new job as NFL correspondent—a gig that took him straight back to VMC.

Taking time at work to read about the Green Bay Packers used to be procrastination; not anymore.

In June, CBSSports.com hired me to cover the Packers as an NFL correspondent. The web site was launching RapidReports, a network of journalists embedded with every NFL team, to provide real-time updates and information this season. Suddenly, I was thrust into the world of professional sports, multimillionaire athletes and information-starved fans. The job began with Packers training camp. As a student at St. Norbert, I spent two summers on campus watching Packers camp come and go. Now, instead of dodging players on the way to the caf, I’m dodging them on the sidelines. While players were learning the playbook, I was learning the ropes of covering the Packers.

Early in camp, I did a video with CBSSports.com’s senior writer Clark Judge. I felt as out of place as some of the undrafted free-agent rookies on the field. Of course, it was they who had the difficult job. Most players do an unbelievable amount of work during training camp. One of the benefits of this job is the nearly day-to-day access to the players and to observe that hard work over time. The NFL is very good at mythmaking; we’ve all seen the well-produced commercials with epic soundtracks featuring players in slow motion. After days of two-a-day practices, players certainly move in slow motion—but from pain and exhaustion. This daily grind doesn’t often make it through in the sound bites and clips you see in the media.

It’s easy to criticize players from the cozy confines of your living room. Try doing it standing next to a 6-foot-5-inch offensive lineman who made a mistake that may cost him a job. If you have a critical question, it has to be well-reasoned and respectful.

Players also have a lighter side. Nick Barnett recently had a viral video hit with the tour of his training camp home, VMC 115. One of the NFL’s frequent Twitter users, Barnett played host in the style of MTV’s “Cribs.” The joke being, Barnett’s room in VMC wasn’t the usual multimillion-dollar mansion setting.

While Barnett did his best to describe the place in glowing terms—marble floors, luxury bathroom, etc.—it was obvious he was having a bit of fun. Having lived in VMC myself as a sophomore, I found it amusing. Surely Barnett’s teammates, also sharing the distraction-limiting accommodations of VMC, were entertained as well.

I guess everyone takes a break from work now and then.

Crew rows into 21st season

This fall saw the crew team celebrate its 20th year at the Tail of the Fox Regatta, at the start of its 21st season as a club sport at St. Norbert. Kassie Lang ’10, vice president, says, “I am really looking forward to this upcoming season. We have a lot of seniors on the team and we are all determined to make this one of the best years SNC crew has ever had.”

Team member Matt Fox ’10 says crew is “a big family.” Fox, whose involvement has worked around military deployment to Hurricane Katrina sites and Baghdad, says, “When I was in Iraq the team made a giant poster showing their support, and had everyone at the regatta that fall sign it and write a message.”

Founding members Paula and Steve Engelhardt still coach both varsity and novice crews. This year, the club numbers 24 rowers. Paula remembers its beginnings in 1988: “We hoped it would last for a long time, but we never thought it would!”

The Engelhards, known as “Mom” and “Dad” to most members of the crew team, consider themselves the students’ rowing parents. They make an effort to attend the students’ plays, concerts and other events, as well as to “approve of” their significant others.

According to Steve, the rewards have been unbelievable. Both say they truly enjoy working with young people, and see value in watching students develop in character, leadership skills and confidence. Paula states that the goal of the club is “to make people and, if winning comes with that, great!”
Now recruiting for new women’s hockey program

Building on a winning tradition, St. Norbert will add women’s hockey as a varsity sport next fall. Head coach Rob Morgan is already recruiting for the opening season.

Morgan has spent the last six years as associate head coach of the women’s team at Dartmouth College. He helped the Big Green to the NCAA Tournament in each of its last three seasons. Dartmouth was 128-53-18 during his six-year coaching tenure. In his time at Dartmouth, Morgan had a hand in the Big Green going to four NCAA Tournaments, five ECAC Final Fours and two Ivy League championships. Morgan coached four Olympians, 13 U-22 national team players and one All-American. Morgan coached the defensemen and also coordinated recruiting, so he was able to bring to his new position a “deep list” of prospective student-athletes, he says.

He will have the opportunity to build the women’s ice hockey program at St. Norbert from scratch, with the Green Knights taking to the ice for the 2010-11 season. “I believe it’s about informing the women’s hockey community about the St. Norbert College advantage in all areas of the student experience,” he says. “After this, it’s about finding the right kids: a certain type of student-athlete, one who would be excited about the challenge that lies ahead and the great rewards and memories gained by being amongst the founding members of St. Norbert women’s hockey.”

All but five weekends throughout the year Morgan will be off-campus watching hockey, meeting high school and club coaches, and speaking with parents and prospective student athletes throughout the U.S. and Canada. While his focus is on recruiting for next year, he is also evaluating juniors and sophomores in preparation for his second and third recruiting classes. “Important is knowing (approximately) the Division I cutoff. This has allowed me to really focus on those marginal Division I kids who would be a great fit here at St. Norbert. I plan on leaning on some of my coaching colleagues who have started programs from scratch to find out what worked, what didn’t and what would they do differently.”

In addition to the recruiting, Morgan is putting together next year’s schedule and ensuring the team’s equipment needs will be in place. He is hoping to find some time to watch some of the top teams within the conference (the Women’s Northern Collegiate Hockey Association) so he won’t be going into his first season blind to the competition.

And he is enjoying some of the details, too: his involvement in designing the team jersey and the new locker room facility at the Cornerstone Community Center’s newly constructed Resch Olympic Pavilion.

Earlier in his career, Morgan was selected to coach one of eight teams at the Alberta Winter Games, where his team won the gold medal.

Green Knight athletes, coaches inducted into halls of fame

When the Wisconsin Amateur Softball Association inducted this year’s honorees into its Hall of Fame this summer, St. Norbert figured large. Among this year’s 10 picks were Joann Kruger, head softball coach, and Jean Rivett, longtime employee in the Leadership, Service and Engagement office and former assistant softball coach. Rivett is now head softball coach at UW-Green Bay.

Inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association’s Hall of Fame for 2009 were Coach Jim Purtill and John Kolstad ’75. Green Knights both. Kolstad played quarterback for his father, Coach Chick Kolstad, and now coaches at Green Bay East High School.

This year sees the first hockey player inducted into the St. Norbert College Hall of Fame, Rob Smillie ’99. Smillie joins fellow inductees Aaron Kramer ’98, David Minten ’65 and Kathryn (Petersen) Ullman ’98. Kramer is St. Norbert baseball’s career batting leader, holding a .432 lifetime average. Minten lettered three times in basketball and twice in baseball for the Green Knights. Ullman was a highly decorated women’s tennis player at St. Norbert, posting a 44-10 singles record and 62-12 doubles mark—all at the No. 1 flight.

Smillie was an integral part of St. Norbert’s rise to national prominence in ice hockey. The Player of the Year for the NCAA Division III and the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association as a senior in 1999, he was a two-time first-team All-America selection and a three-time first-team All-NCHA pick. He still holds school records for points in a season (61 in 1998) and goals in a season (34 in 1998), and is the second-leading career scorer in school history with 175 points.
A note of appreciation

Music drew Chris Koszuta ’01 and Jenny Thiel-Koszuta ’01 together during their college years and it has sustained their continuing connection with the St. Norbert music department. Their collaborative efforts after graduation continue to benefit the college and have earned them this year’s Young Alumni Award. They are the first couple to jointly receive the honor.

Never ones to sit idly by at any stage in their lives, the couple were a driving force behind the creation of the Friends of Music organization at St. Norbert in 2006. The Friends’ focus is on uniting community members, educators, college music faculty and alumni to serve, support and promote the St. Norbert College music program. The organization already boasts a membership list of more than 700 music alumni.

“We are deeply honored to receive the Young Alumni Award,” Jenny says. “Our hope is that it inspires others to stay involved with their alma mater, and continue giving back to St. Norbert College and the surrounding community.”

Chris and Jenny were recognized in 2008 with the music department’s Christmas Angel Award. The honor was in appreciation for their service to music at the college and their continuing support of cultural programming at St. Norbert.

During their time at St. Norbert, each held leadership roles with several groups, teams and organizations. Jenny was a member of the track team in addition to her many musical pursuits, while Chris was a two-time captain of the soccer team, president of Burke Hall, a resident assistant for two years, and he served on Knight Theatre’s executive board.

Music is still a major part of their lives. Jenny, a television and stage personality, was named Jazz Artist of the Year in Milwaukee in 2008, and performs with the Jenny Thiel Group. Chris is a music editor, keyboardist and piano teacher, and also frequently performs with the Jenny Thiel Group.

“The education from St. Norbert College — specifically the expertise and guidance from Michael Rosewall and the SNC music department — was priceless,” Chris says. “It is because of their dedication to us as students that we are driven to give back to SNC today and for years to come.”
A SEASONAL SAMPLING

Wintry weather is just around the corner, but a wealth of events at St. Norbert will help spice up the season. For more, visit our online listings at www.snc.edu/calendar, where you will find details of these and many other activities on campus.

Nov. 13  Autumn Instrumental Jazz Concert
Nov. 15  Purdue University’s Charlene Haddock Siegfried to speak on “Jane Addams’ Struggles with the Life of Art and the Art of Life”
Nov. 21  St. Norbert College Music presents Offenbach’s “La Perichole”
Dec.  4  Festival of Christmas
Dec.  5  Brass and Organ Christmas Spectacular
Dec.  5  Breakfast with Santa
Jan.  27  Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration at Common Prayer
Jan. 27-31  “Suessical the Musical,” presented by Knight Theatre
Jan.  30  Alumni Hockey Game
Feb.  13  Old St. Joseph Parish celebrates its 40th anniversary
Feb.  27  Soul Food Dinner