LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER

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On the cover:
The words of love and family knit together in our cover illustration are never far from the surface in conversations about the St. Norbert experience, where current students and alumni alike frame their time on campus in terms of warm and sustained relationship. It was our foundress herself who charged this community, “Let us love one another.” The enduring and sometimes complex affections that extend through many different kinds of family experience are our focus in this issue.
A place where love abides

College President Thomas Kunkel

I didn’t know my friend Susan Allen, editor of this fine publication, was such a romantic — until she told me about the theme of this issue. It deals with love, in all its incarnations. One particular aspect I might want to address, Susan added helpfully, is why there is so much talk of love at St. Norbert College, and why I think it abounds here.

As usual she gives me too much credit, as in truth I’m hard-pressed to answer that question. The best I might do would be to say that, in my experience, what we extend to one another we receive in return. Trust begets trust. Talent draws talent. And where there is an environment of love, love flourishes.

I certainly believe that is the case at St. Norbert, where an atmosphere that began with our founder’s call to love one another has been cultivated in succeeding generations by our Norbertine patrons, and today is evident in everything from the emotion of a Common Prayer service to the wall-to-wall weddings that highlight every spring and summer at Old St. Joe’s.

However it came to be, that abiding sense of love is one of the things Deb and I have come to treasure about St. Norbert College.

Fact is, this time of year has always been special to us. On Feb. 21, we celebrated our 34th wedding anniversary. (I am tempted to say that we were married when we were 13, but I’m told it’s unbecoming for a college president to fib, at least so blatantly.)

And on Feb. 14, our Valentine’s Day baby, Grace, turned 21. With all four daughters now officially adults, I suppose that means we are officially old.

As we like to remind her, Grace was a challenging pregnancy. About halfway through the usual incubation period she began showing signs of impatience, occasionally sending Deb to forced bed rest even as she was trying to keep up with three rambunctious girls under age 6. At seven and a half months, though, there was no stopping things. The doctors administered drugs to try to forestall a delivery, but to no avail.

Because of those drugs, however, a kind of slow-motion labor ensued. Deb and I watched the clock as it crawled past 9 p.m., then 10, then 11. But along about then, our perspective changed. We began to hope Grace would wait just a little longer, because if she stuck it out past midnight she would be born on Valentine’s Day. And so she did, arriving at 1 a.m. on Feb. 14.

After all the waiting, children are born – and then, as every parent knows, time simply races. You think back and the images flash in your mind’s eye like a quick-cut highlight reel. It’s First Communion and soccer, spelling bees and class pageants, first dates and clothing fights, proms, track meets, crying jags, college, Christmas gatherings, funerals.

And this year, engagements. As you may have heard, Grace’s three sisters are all marrying in a triple wedding ceremony this October. And Grace will be the maid of honor, cubed.

The wedding, by the way, will be at Old St. Joe’s — a most fitting venue, I think, for one more celebration of love.
Packers partnership contributes to new scholarly conference

The Green Bay Packers will team up with the college for a national conference on sports and society, in a first-ever initiative of its kind.

Former NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue will be one of the presenters in this pioneering partnership between the worlds of professional and collegiate sports and scholarly research.

"A Mirror of our Culture: Sport and Society in America" will bring together academics and sports professionals who will be able to share ideas on the impact of sports on business and culture. The event will encompass programming both at St. Norbert and at Lambeau Field.

Tagliabue will present on "Sport in American Society" on the St. Norbert campus. Carl Vogel ’79, an owner of the St. Louis Blues hockey team, is featured on a slate of presentations and roundtable discussions scheduled for Lambeau.

Prominent on a program of expert speakers are Robert Kustra, president of Boise State University, who will present on "Modern College Athletics: A View from the Top," and Kevin Blackstone, who will speak on "Race and Sports in America." Blackstone, a panelist on ESPN's "Around the Horn," holds the Shirley Povich Chair at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland.

Other presenters will examine sport from the standpoint of economics, business and law; of gender; of philosophy, ethics and psychology; and of history and religion. The program also incorporates a gallery exhibition of the finest of American sports photography, and a juried festival of sports-themed films and videos.

Mark Murphy, president and CEO of the Green Bay Packers, will join President Thomas Kunkel to open the May 26-28 conference.


The Class of 1977 yields a rich vein of college leadership

New board of trustees chair Bill Auriemma ’77 needed to look no further than his friend and classmate, Patrick Kelly ’77, for a good example of how to lead the college's governing body effectively.

Kelly guided the college through the selection of Thomas Kunkel as president and the pursuit of a campus master plan highlighted by the completion of two major construction projects. Now it’s Auriemma’s turn to build on that momentum.

"All institutions go through phases where there are things you need to accomplish, and Pat had a lot of projects on his plate that needed to get off the dinne,” Auriemma says. "The [Mulva] Library was critical and really needed to get done. Pat was a great mentor and role model in terms of learning the business of institutional governance."

Auriemma is a veteran of high-level strategizing in his role as president and chief executive officer of Diversified CPC International, an Illinois-based manufacturer and distributor of liquefied gas aerosol propellants and foam blowing agents. He says one of the challenges inherent in leading a college board of trustees, as opposed to a corporation, is toeing the line between appropriate governance and overbearing management.

"It’s a line that sometimes gets a little blurry, and it’s important that you keep that distinction," he says. "The board is in place to set policy, and allocate and provide resources for the institution. Our role is to put the best people in place at the highest levels, and then step aside and let them do their jobs."

Auriemma sees his role as a facilitator who needs to be front and center to effectively champion St. Norbert College’s mission, goals and capital projects. "I think the board chair needs to be visible, and he needs to be consistent with the message of the institution," he states. "Who we are, the Norbertine values and heritage, have to be at the forefront of everything we do. When the community looks at the board chair, they need to see a steady hand and someone who views their role of leadership as helping to create the right balance. You have to make sure you have all the players on the bus and in the right seats."

Auriemma explains: "You want to have some board members with strong academic credentials. You also want to have people that have the ability to raise funds. That’s a big deal. Some are big donors themselves, and there are others that can work well with donors."

The board is comprised of members with a variety of skill sets who have ties to the college’s primary constituency communities. Auriemma chaired the board’s finance committee during Kelly’s term, and the two worked together on shoring up the college’s financial position.

"Most small, private colleges aren’t blessed with massive endowments, and we’re no exception to that," Auriemma notes. "Everyone’s endowments took big hits last year, but because of the type of fiscal controls we have in place and the amount of transparency we have in the budgeting process with reparation hands, when we looked at areas to nip and tuck, it was doable because people understood."

"These are still pretty challenging economic times when it comes to reaching out to donors, yet we’re finding ways to get it done."
Enhanced honors program fosters a vital community of student scholars

By Marcie Paul
Associate Professor of Modern Foreign Languages
Director of the Honors Program

This year has seen several high-impact learning practices move the honors program beyond the classroom. While retaining special honors classes for its most intellectually curious students, St. Norbert is in the midst of renovating a program that will come to include a living-learning community, faculty-student collaboration and service learning.

The first step took place in the fall of 2009. Incoming honors students took a “common course” (Introduction to Theology), and lived together this year in Bergstrom Hall. The Bergstrom community benefited from special programming, including an evening at the Norbertine Abbey and a leadership workshop led by our own ROTC cadets.

This semester we have spent a weekend at the college’s Rankin Lodge on Otter Lake and enjoyed dinner with Pulitzer Prize-winning economist David Cay Johnston. We’re also planning a movie night with John Neary – English professor and cinema buff.

Watch us grow! The next step will be the incorporation of an honors project into the curriculum. Depending on the students’ majors, this project may be a thesis, an art exhibit or a recital, and it will be supervised by a faculty mentor. On the horizon? Service learning, where students align their academic experience with work for the common good.

St. Norbert College has had an honors program for almost 25 years. Tied to the general education program, it has always offered students small, honors-only classes in which they enjoy added discussion, debate and faculty-student interaction.

The college already provides students with an exciting, challenging course of study. We, like many other institutions of higher learning, have founded (and funded) honors programs, because we believe in the importance of cultivating a vital community of student-scholars who share a passion for learning both inside and outside the classroom. And we know that this is a community that, when it thrives, enriches the entire institution.

New technologies bring opportunities to educators of vision

An article by President Tom Kunkel in the Chronicle of Higher Education challenges colleges and universities to embrace new technologies of communication as they revisit the ways they deliver higher education. In “Too ‘Old School’ for Our Own Good,” Kunkel, formerly the director of the Project on the State of the American Newspaper, points out that, two decades ago, the newspaper industry ignored and then denied the coming new digital reality, to its eventual cost. Higher education, similarly, may imperil its own future if it decides to ignore the potential for digital creativity.

Students live cut their lives online as well as on campus, and the internet does more than potentially free class schedules from the confines of the traditional academic year, Kunkel writes. “Colleges must use the technology of communications more inventively — for teaching, yes, but also for what we assign and accept as homework and course projects. Creating videos or multimedia presentations would take at least as much imagination, and doubtless be more interesting for students, than another six-page term paper.”

Student team meets the challenge of funding Americans’ retirement

A St. Norbert team that developed a plan to solve America’s looming retirement crisis ranked among finalists from Harvard University, Saint Louis University, Texas Tech University and Western Michigan University in a national competition.

The team of students, drawing on their studies in accounting, economics, computer science and mathematics, received a $2,000 prize and $500 for their faculty advisor, Emanuel Oliveira (Economics).

The i0Me Challenge presented Kyle Manderscheid ’10, Travis Worman ’10 and Kevin Steiner ’10 the opportunity to engage in public policy and have their voices heard by political leaders. Their plan focused on Social Security, pensions, extra tax revenues and incentives for students to start saving early.

St. Norbert partnered with business sponsor to mount the i0Me Challenge but the finalists were selected by an independent panel of nationally recognized experts. Among the judges were Dan Kettl, dean of the University of Maryland School of Public Policy; James Choi of the Yale School of Management; John List of the University of Chicago; and Laura Schwartz ’81, former special assistant to President Clinton.

“We were hoping for the best in the challenge but were not expecting to place in the top three, let alone Beat submissions from Harvard and other high-caliber colleges. My teammates and I were ecstatic to hear the news,” says Steiner, who led the team.
Building on a mission for peace and justice

Working toward a world dedicated to peace; justice and human dignity is a big task. Yet Bob Pyne sounds upbeat and confident in his new role as director of the St. Norbert College Peace and Justice Center.

“I haven’t found anybody who’s said, ‘I’m really not for peace. I’m really not for justice,’” says Pyne, who succeeded Sr. Sally Ann Brickner, O.S.F., ’67. (Brickner stepped down in May to assume the post of first vice president of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross.) “I don’t have anybody who doesn’t want to be a part of it,” Pyne says of students, faculty and staff.

“I have co-laborers left and right all around here who together want to strive for the common good,” Pyne says. “They see that as part of their vocation and as reflecting the Catholic tradition and the Norbertine heritage of the school.”

Pyne, a native of Phoenix and a graduate of Arizona State University, earned master’s and doctoral degrees in theology from Dallas Seminary, where he taught for 17 years. More recently, he served three years as director of leadership development for ALARM (African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries).

ALARM, which operates in eight countries with a primarily African staff, opened Pyne to a greater sense of responsibility for our far neighbors and what peace-building looks like, he says.

The St. Norbert opening then served as the “perfect storm,” bringing with it “the opportunity to champion human dignity and promote peace-building in the context of a liberal arts college that has the mission of peace-building as part of its Norbertine heritage.”

Unlike the seminary, where all the students were training for the ministry, St. Norbert offers diversity in students, academic disciplines and belief systems, Pyne says. “I really like the sense of common ground with regard to human dignity and the common good. I really like the broader tent of the ecumenical environment theologically, but also the inclusive environment, so that while we are a Catholic institution, we’re absolutely welcoming for people of all faiths or people who don’t consider themselves to be of any faith.”

At a liberal arts college, Pyne adds, he can draw on all disciplines to develop multifaceted top-down and bottom-up approaches more likely to withstand changes in government.

So far, Pyne says, the major challenge has not been lack of ideas, but deciding which ideas best promote peace and justice. To take environmental justice as one example, Earth Week and recycling are not just about giving people information: “You have to cultivate in them a commitment to change. So awareness is one step. Compassion is a step. Ultimately we’re seeking to produce, in ourselves and in our students, a commitment to the common good that changes behavior. And that’s not just in others. That’s something we seek for ourselves.”

Opera sets the stage for three acts of comedy

An Opera Workshop production of “La Perichole” introduced Offenbach’s comic opera to the college community this winter. The story, told in three acts, concerns two impoverished Peruvian street-singers, too poor to afford a marriage license. Elizabeth Holterman ’11 (left) played the title role, with David Guscott ’11 (right) taking the role of the lecherous viceroy who wishes to make her his mistress. Paul Halverson ’11 sang the part of La Perichole’s suitor, Piquillo.

This production was directed by Yi-Lan Niu and accompanied by Elaine Moss (Music).

Pre-med students benefit from unique scientific partnership

One of the only private liberal arts colleges in the country to maintain a cadaver lab for undergraduate students, St. Norbert is now partnering with Zimmer Thomson Associates to make the facility available not just to students but also to orthopedic surgeons in Wisconsin.

The cadaver lab already offers hands-on experience for the college’s pre-med students. They will now be able to observe surgical procedures carried out by qualified physicians. The physicians, in turn, will benefit from access to a lab that is closer to home. Until now, the opportunity to work with new products and develop new techniques has required traveling out of state.

Larry Schiech (Chemistry) fostered the relationship with Zimmer Thomson, an orthopedic care products supplier.
Interns put the power of social media to work

The office of admission has gone virtual with the help of the social networking savvy of student interns Greg Schmidt ’10 (left) and Samuel Sieger ’10 (right). A part of the pair’s internship responsibilities is to help leverage social networking to assist in the college’s recruitment efforts.

Prospective and incoming students now receive St. Norbert College news and information, photos, videos and polls via Facebook, Twitter and Flickr. The Class of 2014 already has its own page on Facebook, where students can connect even before they arrive on campus.

History-making parish marks four decades

St. Norbert College celebrated the 40th anniversary of the College Parish of Old St. Joseph, with a daylong celebration on Saturday, Feb. 13.

The event was a reminder of the parish’s rich heritage. Old St. Joe’s was one of the first college parishes in the United States when it was established. Today, Old St. Joe’s is home to 2,000 students and 380 households.

The festivities included a Mass with Abbot Gary Neville, O.Praem., ’73 presiding, a dinner and a dance.

Federal funding will support science and technology education

Funding for a $910,000 initiative to prepare students in science, technology, engineering and math follows President Barack Obama’s approval of an Omnibus Appropriations Act award for the college.

Congressman Steve Kagen, M.D., and Senator Herb Kohl worked with college leaders to secure funding for this project. Federal funds will be used toward instructional technology, laboratory equipment and instrumentation, laboratory and classroom furnishings and science discovery center supplies.

Kohl says: “As our society continues to change and grow with technology and electronics, it is important that our students and future leaders be well educated in science, technology, engineering and math related fields. This funding will provide St. Norbert College the supplies and facilities they need to continue their hard work providing a first-class education to their students.”

Students of all ages will benefit from these enhancements by experiencing scientific discovery firsthand. Outreach to K-12 schools will help draw students at an early age. Instructional technologies will enhance science literacy for all college students, and upgraded laboratory equipment and instrumentation will provide advanced experiences to science majors that will prepare them for graduate school and careers as teachers, researchers and lab technicians.

“The proposed science project will have a significant impact in Wisconsin, helping to stimulate the economy and jobs in the state,” says President Tom Kunzel. “For instance, the world’s largest manufacturer of laboratory furniture and fume hoods happens to be located about 40 miles from campus.”

Federal funding, moreover, will allow the college to immediately install projectors and laptop computers to support new pedagogies; sophisticated microscopes and devices for advanced research; tables and storage and display cabinets for hands-on activity; and specialized probes and interfaces for outreach to K-12 students and teachers in northeastern Wisconsin.

Political author and broadcaster to speak at Commencement

Gwen Ifill, moderator of the vice presidential debates during the 2008 elections, will speak at Commencement this spring.

Ifill is an acclaimed journalist and author of “The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama.” She is the moderator of PBS’ “Washington Week in Review,” the longest-running prime-time news and public affairs program on television.

Ifill serves on the boards of the Harvard University Institute of Politics and the Committee to Protect Journalists. She has worked as chief congressional and political correspondent for NBC News and White House correspondent for The New York Times.

She has been recognized for her work by the Radio and Television News Directors Association, Harvard’s Joan Shorenstein Center, Ebony Magazine and Boston’s Ford Hall Forum.

The New York City native, a graduate of Simmons College in Boston, will receive an honorary degree from the college during the May ceremony.

ST. NORBERT COLLEGE magazine spring 2010
Love abounds

A professor cherishes signs of the divine in a place of community

By Thomas Faase
Associate Professor of Sociology

St. Norbert College is a place where goodness happens. The catalyst for that, in my personal experience, is love.

The injunction of our founder, Fr. Bernard Pennings, to “love one another,” is visible and real within our college community. In this brief article, I simply want to illustrate a few instances of how this faculty member experiences signs of love in the day-to-day. God is Love; these signs of love are sparks of the divine.

From time to time, outstanding alumni return to campus to receive one sort of award or another. In their acceptance speeches, they often identify specific teachers who have had a special fond influence upon them. I have been a proud recipient of such comments. I see the affection and pleasure in the eyes of these alums, and I experience God-sparks.

Similarly, every faculty member receives thank-you letters from former students that express the influence we have had, lovingly recalled. I know something good is being built for our world when these thanks are sent.

At a wedding of two former students, as my wife, Debbie (Debbie Faase, Education), and I walked through the receiving line, the bride boldly said to the two of us, “You know this [wedding] was all your fault!” Then in explanation, she said that she had been seeing a man when she took my course in Society, Sex and Marriage.

In that course I say, “The two most important things in the whole world when you are in a courtship are, one, that you prize yourself most highly and, two, that you never settle for a relationship that makes less of you.”

This bride broke up with that guy—who at times made less of her—and found her groom in a wonderful man who always made more of her.

Considering times of distress and sorrow, too,
nothing moves me more about my students than those instances when their love for each other, and their care for each other, are abundantly given.

When a student suffers on this campus, other students suffer with him or her. Students hold one another, support one another, love one another—and express that unreservedly when another needs their love.

At times, even parents of another student become surrogate moms or dads for the one who is sorrowing. God’s love and the love of one another clearly blend in the “family” that we encounter at St. Norbert.

I will remember all my life how I experienced God’s love when I returned from an episode of heart trouble and first saw a fellow sociologist in her office. One glance at me and she started to weep tears of relief and affection that I was well and back to work. She cried not only for me, but in relief for my wife and children and all they had been through.

I see divine sparks in the response of the campus groundskeeper, who has been in that job for more than a dozen years and will stop her vehicle when she sees me, to ask how I am doing. She offers her care with such genuine sincerity that I know Bernard Penning’s injunction is being practiced at that very moment.

God’s love is made palpable every time I walk past Old St. Joseph’s Church. This was the site of our children’s baptisms, First Communions and first reconciliations. It was, and remains, our family’s house of worship. Our beloved pastor even took the trouble to fly to Boulder, Colo., to preside at our son’s wedding.

Once each semester, in that course on Society, Sex and Marriage, my wife comes in as a guest speaker, an “expert” on parenting. These God-sparks I see in that hour of class are many.

I see the students witnessing the sparks of love I am feeling for Debbie and Debbie is feeling for me. In return, I see lots of sparks of love from the students for the witness of a loving marriage, a vital component of any college course on marriage and the family.

Once in a teacher evaluation, a student said, “You speak to us of many of the worries and pitfalls of marriage and family, but at the same time you witness to us a loving and happy marriage, that gives us courage to go on.”

A four-year education at St. Norbert College is not only a collection of courses, readings, assignments and grades. It is an overall life event.

What I have witnessed among the students throughout my career here, and what I have seen in their growing to maturity, is founded on love. God is present in the events of their education here.

The mission and identity with which the Norbertines have endowed this community are, unsurprisingly, those of a place where goodness happens. There is a dynamic of love that pervades the campus life and learning of this wonderful institution.

A common life

By Josh Jones ’10
Vice President of College Relations, Student Government Association

I got my first taste of what communio—a life in common—meant when I came on campus for a tour following a spinal cord injury I suffered the summer after high school graduation. Recently discharged from the hospital and still getting comfortable with my new situation, I’ll admit I was a little self-conscious and nervous about the visit.

But everywhere I went that first afternoon, people were quick to smile. They were not afraid to introduce themselves and ask a few questions about where I was from and why I was on campus. I felt like I belonged already. I knew I’d found a place I could call home.

Home is where your family is, and as I became a part of the greater St. Norbert family, I soon found myself a member of numerous smaller families, too.

One was that of my social group, ADMAR. The guys helped me meet new people and went out of their way to make sure I could actively participate in whatever they were doing. They built ramps into a handful of campus houses and even provided a shovel brigade to ensure I could make it to the bars on my 21st birthday, in spite of a snowstorm. Quite a few are now alumni, but we keep in touch and it’s always a fun time when they make their way back to campus.

It takes a community to teach communio. You cannot truly understand, embrace and learn the true meaning of this core Norbertine value, expressing a commitment to one another, if you’re not in an environment where you are living and experiencing it.

The experiences we have, we have together. As my senior year rapidly comes to a close and I prepare to leave campus, I do so knowing that, wherever I go, I have the support of my St. Norbert family.

Josh Jones ’10 (center) is this year’s student recipient of the Founder’s Award.
Soul mates

Memories from a handful of the 3,000-some St. Norbert alums whose student love stories never came to an end.

Homecoming Queen - “Rosa” Kruczyk

Charlie “Bunny” Kruczyk has been elected “Queen of the Homecoming” by the student body. She will be crowned as queen at half time ceremony today. Bunny is a Green Bay Senior and a native of Edinboro.

Nam Zveck

Nunn did not have to have an election of the student body to crown the new “King of Football” for St. Norbert. Last year he made an exceptional come back when he passed over 1,000 yards from scrimmage. He is well on the way to completing 2,000 this year. A Polish Senior and major in Mathematics. Nunn is particularly interested in making an additional $150 this semester by playing professional football. He is very anxious to decide whether to try Professional Football or go into industry upon his return from his graduation.
My husband, Matt Sullivan ’95, and I met at freshman orientation. A group of us were in the PAC gym playing volleyball and some guy kept hitting the ball to me. So, I figured either I was the weak spot on the team or he was interested. Turns out, it was some of both.

We started dating the fall of our freshman year and dated our entire four years...almost. There was a period of about 72 hours our junior year where we “kind of” broke up. You see, I had this idea that maybe we should see other people for a while to confirm or deny what we had. Matt, unfortunately, was not of the same mind. When he walked out of my townhouse that evening, I thought it was over for good.

That same night I had a meeting over at Campus Ministry to help plan an upcoming retreat. I can tell you, I wasn’t much help. Before I knew it, I was crying in Fr. Jim Barniaik’s office. He told me to bring Matt in so we could all have a talk.

Matt and I both had great respect and affection for Fr. Jim. We had known him for several years by that time. We thought of him as part of our extended family. He was, and is, funny, warm, approachable and dedicated to the students.

It was within this context of familiarity and understanding that we were able to talk with him and work things out. That meeting changed our lives forever. We didn’t break up. Our relationship grew stronger, and our faith with it. Fr. Jim presided over our wedding two years later. Five years after that we moved back “home” to De Pere, where Fr. Jim baptized our son and then later, our daughter.

So, yes, St. Norbert College holds a special place in our hearts. It brought us together and has kept us together.

And we are not alone. According to college records, there are 1,554 married St. Norbert Alumni couples—that’s 3,108 of us.

It has been my honor and privilege to interview just a few of these people. Despite the 40-year difference in graduation years, there are threads of commonality that weave these couples together—a chance meeting in class, playing football, walking down the river, enjoying a dance on campus. Come with me for a bit. Let’s enjoy some of their stories.

Clarice (Krawczyk) ’58 and Norm Jarock ’58

In the fall of 1958, Clarice (Krawczyk) Jarock ’58, better known as Boots, was voted Homecoming queen and Norm Jarock ’58, the football hero and record holder for rushing yards, was tagged the unofficial Homecoming king. When I interviewed them, Norm told me that Boots is still the queen.

After 51 years of marriage, they still adore one another. You can hear it in the way Boots talks about Norm’s accomplishments. She is sure to tell me he was named a Little All-America Football Team player, which got him an audience shot on the Ed Sullivan Show. She tells me he was the ninth player drafted by the Packers in 1958, only to have his football career cut short by an ankle injury during the Packers’ first major scrimmage that year. She proudly tells me of his three early promotions in the army. He retired at the rank of colonel.

At one point, when I express awe at Boots’ ability to pick up and move her family of seven to Korea, stay in a small apartment where she hand-carried the water and slept on the floor, and find a teaching job at a nearby international school, Norm raises an eyebrow and nods—his admission that, yes, Boots is an amazing woman.

One of Boots and Norm’s early encounters was in English class. Norm was reading from the poem “Sehrab and Rustum” by Matthew Arnold, and caught Boots’ attention with his deep voice.

Next day, Boots arrived early and purposely sat in the wrong seat so she could be next to Norm. The two of them sat next to each other for the remainder of the class. By the fall of their junior year, they were an item.

The place and the year they fell in love still hold special meaning for the couple. They had run across “Sehrab and Rustum” at an antique shop and purchased it in honor of the memory. They dusted off its cover for me to see. Since then, Norm and Boots have lived all over the world, only returning to De Pere in 1986 when Norm retired from the army.

When Norm and Boots began looking to move back to Wisconsin, Boots called up Abbott Pennings High School in De Pere to see if she could get David, their fourth child, on the waiting list. Boots gave the secretary her married name, Clarice Jarock. The secretary immediately asked, “Is this Boots?” Boots says: “I mean, after being gone all those years! It turned out that this woman’s brother went to St. Norbert with us.”

It’s that kind of small community atmosphere that has Norm and Boots glad to be back. They’ve got a lifetime pass to see all the college football games, they enjoy getting together with old classmates at Homecoming, they love the music theater productions of Dudley Birder and, on warm summer nights, they still ride their bikes around campus.

Opposite: In fall 1957, when Boots was Homecoming queen and Norm was “king of football,” the Rev. Simon Becker, O.Praem., ’34 was chaplain to the football team. He also ran the print shop on campus, so he made sure the couple appeared on facing pages in the Homecoming game program. Later, he would print their wedding invitations as his gift, and indeed cancel the ceremony itself.
Marty (Webb) ’77 and Tom Dwyer ’77

Love at St. Norbert College has spanned the generations for the Dwyer family. It all started in 1974 when a young Tom Dwyer ’77 asked Marty (Webb) Dwyer ’77 to Homecoming. Now, 32 years of marriage and five children later, the family boasts two more St. Norbert College love stories; the most recent culminated in a November 2009 wedding.

Tom, a football player and founding member of JDL, and Marty, a cheerleader and founding member of CC Huns, got to know one another when Marty dated Tom’s roommate. Tom and Marty had been together for almost a year when Marty went abroad to study in Spain. Because phone calls were cost-prohibitive and near impossible to arrange, Tom and Marty exchanged letters and cassette tapes. The cassette tapes were a meaningful way for them to keep in touch, but Tom laughs when I ask if they’ve kept them. He says, “Oh, they’d probably be embarrassing to listen to now.” The time away helped them solidify their relationship and they married shortly after graduation in 1977.


Pat says, “I think the fact that my parents, my brother and sister-in-law, and now my wife and I have all met at SNC, and then later married, is a testament to the draw of the college!”

Kris (Priester) ’86 and Tom Schnell ’86

Tom Schnell ’86 and Kris (Priester) Schnell ’86 didn’t start out romantically involved. They were friends their freshman year and wrote to each other the summer following. Their romance, they now realize, dates back to a “goofy” letter that Tom wrote to Kris during that summer.

When Kris’ mom read the letter, she was sure that Tom was interested. Kris’ response was, “Oh, Mother, he couldn’t possibly like me. We’re just friends.” Well, 22 years of marriage later, it turns out Mom was right.

When school began that next fall, Tom and Kris both had dates for a dance held upstairs in the Union. But by the end of the night, they dumped their dates and opted, instead, to take a walk down by the river. That night was the beginning of their relationship.

Tom proposed in May 1986 in Burke Hall, with the words, “What are you doing the next 75 years of your life?” They were married the following July, a year after graduation. Now they have three children. Their oldest, James Schnell ’12, is a sophomore at St. Norbert and a resident assistant in the same dorm where his father proposed marriage.
Karyn (Lange) ’93 and Tim Buerger ’92

Karyn (Lange) Buerger ’93 and Tim Buerger ’92 dated during Karyn’s freshman year and then broke off their relationship over the summer. When they did see each other for the first time the following fall, they were in the cafeteria. Karyn recalls all of the details, even the fact that they were standing in front of the sandwich bar. She says, “He approached me and I was just like, ‘Oh my gosh, that’s it – he’s the one.’”

Tim, an avid deer hunter, proposed on the opening day of deer season. He burst into Karyn’s residence, the St. Boniface building, early that morning dressed from head to toe in blaze orange, yelling, “You gotta see this buck I shot!” He piggybacked a barefoot Karyn out to his truck where, dangling from a necklace on a stuffed deer’s antler, was a diamond ring. The significance of his giving up opening day of the gun hunt season was not lost on Karyn. Since then, it’s only happened on one other occasion: the morning of the birth of their second daughter.

Karyn and Tim were married in July 1993. The last photograph in their wedding album shows all the alumni who were in attendance – about 65 in all. Twelve of Karyn’s 14 roommates were able to celebrate with them. Of those “Boniface Girls,” five later had St. Norbert alumni weddings of their own: Bridget (Pape) ’93 to Tom Posta ’93; Jenny (Black) ’93 to Jim Beehler ’93; Sara (Mellish) ’93 to Matt Barry ’95; Bridget (Ragje) ’93 to Jeff O’Connor ’93; and Kerry (Conroy) ’93 to Greg Sloyan ’94. Tim says, “You know, a lot of people say how crazy we were to get married so young, but I can tell you that I love her more today than I did back then.”

Tera (Sampo) ’98 and Craig Stencel ’98

Craig Stencel ’98 and Tera (Sampo) ’98 have long enjoyed close proximity to one another. It started their freshman year when Craig lived in Madelaine and Tera lived in Lorraine. To see each other, all they had to do was take a short walk across the first-floor lobby. It was so convenient, they opted to stay in Mad/Lor all four years. Now, 11 years after graduation, they find themselves back on campus just a hop, skip and a jump away from each other. Tera manages the registrar’s office and Craig is senior project manager for the Survey Center.

In college, Craig was an anthropology/geology double major and Tera was a sociology major. They often had class together and, for those classes, bought only one set of books. One of the classes was the course Tom Faase (Sociology) taught on Society, Sex and Marriage (see page 8). Tera says, “I remember Dr. Faase thinking it was a hoot … that we had been together and then took this class together, and he just figured we were going to get married and this was kind of a guideline to get you there.”

Craig and Tera were married in September 2001, with the Rev. Jay Fostner, O.Praem., ’84 helping them celebrate. By that time, Craig had earned his master’s degree and, in 2000, fulfilled a long-term dream of working for the college. Tera joined him in 2003. Craig says, “Everybody on campus pretty much knows us and a lot of people knew us when we were students.”

They’ve almost overcome the hurdle of calling their former professors by their first names and are enjoying those relationships as they evolve. They love working at the place where they were once students. And there’s a bonus. As Craig says: “We look at it as though we’re kind of on the repayment program now. We’re getting our tuition back.” +
Love is patient, love is kind
Integrating full-time parenting and full-time work means finding balance in the moment

By Michelle Tichy
Assistant Professor of Education

A
ter my daughter's birth, I had the love and support of my entire family for the way I was parenting, and thought nothing of bringing her with me as I returned to work and school.

When Alexisandra was born, I was still writing my dissertation at the University of Minnesota. I had been learning to balance work and life in a meaningful fashion. I made the choice to “attachment parent” my daughter, a philosophy that promotes the nurturing of strong connections between parents and their children. I returned to the university with my newborn baby in tow. I was confident in my ability to balance full-time parenting with being a full-time doctoral candidate and a part-time multicultural counselor.

During those first days I had my ups and downs, learning to juggle an infant while working on the computer or answering the telephone. I was blessed with some wonderful undergraduates who loved babies and enjoyed taking Alexisandra on brief breaks from my office. I found a smooth flow in my day-to-day work; I enjoyed having my baby in my arms while I was working on projects. I was able to compile all my data and to begin outlining the first draft of my dissertation while nursing my little girl.

Alexisandra rarely cried and as long as I was holding her we had amazingly smooth sailing during the six hours a week we spent in class. Meetings in my department were similarly affirming experiences, with my advisor and peers supportive and caring to my daughter and myself. However, when I started a new workshop on cross-disciplinary research, the professor was painfully clear about her belief that bringing a newborn to her classroom was disrespectful to herself and the other adults.

The implication was that a mother with a baby would undermine the serious nature of the workshop, and thus I was unwelcome in that intellectual environment.

My work world was complicated, too. I had seen the office of multicultural affairs as a very friendly and supportive work environment. My whole perception shifted when we had a full office meeting. One senior colleague began making comments under her breath regarding her inability to concentrate with “those horrible little noises.” Finally she asked me to leave, because she could not concentrate “with the sounds of cooing and gurgling.”

By the time my daughter was six months old I had awoken to the fact that my being an empowered mother and a doctoral candidate was highly threatening to the status quo at one university, and in many ways to the broader community. The road I have taken has often made those who are comfortable feel uneasy.

I spent a great deal of time trying to find like-minded women; this was a bigger challenge than I had expected. I found support through La Leche League and attachment parenting groups, where I met passionate, progressive women, most of whom had the ability to be stay-at-home mothers. I found validation through two wonderful magazines, Brain Child and Mothering. That two magazines were the closest things to a community I was able to find was disheartening on many levels, yet I was and still am extremely grateful that these resources exist.

I sought out conversations with women of all ages and stages regarding their ideas on mothering. These conversations helped me claim my voice as a woman who has chosen to become a mother while continuing her active presence in the broader world. I choose not to spend my time dedicated to my work while my daughter is in the care of others. I choose not to be the stay-at-home or “sequencing” mother. These are valid and important choices for women, just not the roles for me. I am finding my balance on a daily basis and striving to be the best woman and mother that I can be in the moment.

Since my daughter’s birth, I have completed and defended my dissertation. I successfully sought a position at a smaller liberal arts college where I could maintain balance in my life: it was a position that came with the perk of an on-site center where my daughter could attend preschool.

I continue to bring Alexisandra with me to all of my conferences, although now she spends time playing with a babysitter or other children while I am presenting. She now frequents my office less because she is a blossoming kindergartner and enjoys her after-school programs as well. I do not pretend to know what will work for anyone else, but I am glad that I have been able to find a way to parent that is grounded in the deepest love I know.

Tichy’s research interests include early childhood education, moral development, social interdependence and holistic learning. This article draws on material presented at the National Women’s Studies Association and Association for Research on Mothering conferences.
Words from life

Love, generations of family, forgiveness and the redemptive quality of time are themes to which Ken Zahirski (English, Emeritus) finds himself returning more and more in his poetry.

Zahirski, who started writing poetry upon retirement, takes the Ecclesiastical view that there are seasons in life, and the season for introspection, retrospection and integration fits perfectly with writing poetry. He says, "Sometimes you need to step back a bit and let the well fill."

Many of his poems have to do with ageing and, indeed, new seasons in life. He finds himself examining relationships more carefully than ever before, and has been concerned particularly to capture his changing attitudes toward his parents.

Sacrament

Her face glowing softly
as nimbus in the warm, yellow light
of the old farmhouse kitchen
she has called home
for most of her ninety plus years,
my mother, silenced and bound
by four strokes,
sits a prisoner in her wheelchair
at the worn wooden table
upon which she placed so many meals
for her husband and five children.
Now, she depends upon others
to feed her, and to be washed before bed.

I, her eldest son, take a soft pink washcloth,
moisten it with lukewarm water
and begin gently laying her face.

Pushing back her sparse gray curls,
I move the cloth across her forehead,
then down each cheek
up and around each eye,
and then lightly ever so lightly,
over the delicate, transparent skin
moistening her arched nose blade,
all followed by the smoothing on
of her favorite floral-scented face cream.

Although she cannot speak,
her look, shy and wondering, tells me
she is as intrigued as I by the novelty
of my ministrations,
by my tender anointing,
and both mother and son recognize
the silent bond of loving grace
that words,
no matter how deep and wise,
can never describe.

Web Extra: Hear Zahirski read his poetry. snc.edu/go/magazine

Praise

Generous as a January thaw he was,
in most ways, yet with the praise

a child needs as much as a kite its zephyr,
my father was Midas-like, hoarding tight

compliment’s golden treasure,
Like a young Hercules I labored hard

at all my tasks just to hear one gleaming
word of approval, but the best I could

unearth were secondhand compliments
from others to whom he boasted

about his son’s good works. Once, though,
when I had stacked several cords of wood

exactly to his liking, and without his asking,
he put his hand on my shoulder, smiled,

and murmured a quick, shy thanks,
my kite filling, lifting, soaring skyward.
More than a photo
Child sponsorship joins those whose realities are worlds apart

By Drew Van Fossen
Director of Communications and Design

In Kenya, men hold hands. I knew that going in, but it still tugged at my heart when it happened the first time. It’s been years since my sons were of an age to tolerate holding hands, and even then, it was more to keep them from wandering off in a crowd than as gesture of affection or friendship.

Phillip grabbed my hand minutes after we met, and that simple act spoke volumes. Here I was, a grown man from the most affluent society in history, and I found myself desperately seeking acceptance from this small boy who had so deeply touched my family.

Sponsorship of children in the Third World is a pretty common way to share our abundance with those who have little. But, for most of us, the closest we will ever get to our sponsored children is the snapshot on our refrigerator, the representation of a young soul in a faraway land in whose life we hope to make a difference. My family has been fortunate to get to know personally a child we sponsor.

Phillip first appeared on our map in the spring of 2008. My son, Joel ’13, and my wife, Kat, were among a group that traveled to Kawangware, one of Nairobi’s fastest-growing slums, on a mission trip with Vapor Sports Ministries. Vapor uses the universal language of sports to establish centers for humanitarian aid and sustainable life change in Third World environments.

It was Joel who first connected with Phillip. With his bright red hair, Joel stood out as he walked among the hundreds of children who find an urban oasis at the Vapor soccer complex in Kawangware. Joel was regularly mobbed by children who wanted to touch his fair skin and straight, red hair. With the crowd, but hanging back, was a reserved boy with kind eyes and a smile that, according to Joel, “spoke volumes and projected gentleness.”

Over the next several days, Joel found Phillip constantly at his side and discovered that the 8-year-old spoke a good bit of English—impressive, in a boy who had never been to school. We would later discover that Phillip’s mother was struggling in her job as a housekeeper to provide for the two of them. Phillip’s father was dead, murdered in an early morning robbery as he walked to work.
For Phillip, who wants to be a pilot, an education was only a dream.

Joel asked the staff at the Vapor center what it would take to get Phillip enrolled in school. Because Phillip was far behind others his age, he would have to receive tutoring first. Joel committed a good portion of his earnings that summer (he was an office assistant at St. Norbert) to pay for the tutor. Phillip, too, did his part. Six months later, he joined his peers in school. A $42-per-month sponsorship, funded by Joel and his aunt in Montana, provides school fees, uniforms, soccer league fees and a nutritious meal each day.

A year later, my wife was able to return to Kawangware. On her first day, among the 900 or so children who make up the soccer league, she spotted a young boy and called his name. He turned and smiled, “Phillip, I’m Joel’s mom!” she shouted above the fray. Instant recognition. Over the next week, Kat was able to spend time with Phillip and to see that he was thriving.

Meanwhile, I was doing some volunteer PR and design work and my son Adam ’10 was shooting photos for Vapor. His service took him to Africa last summer, where he documented the work on a new center in Togo. With the aid of a collaborative research grant from St. Norbert, he is currently working with his photography professor, Shane Rochleau (Art), on preparing for an exhibit of some of his images from that experience.

And then my turn came. In December, I was able to visit all three Vapor centers in Africa. The center in Kawangware is fully operational; another is under construction in the Ngong Hills of Kenya; and another is currently being built in Togo.

Within minutes of our arrival at the soccer complex in Kawangware, dozens of children appeared out of the slum. Before long, I turned and before me was the smiling face in the photos plastered on our refrigerator at home. Phillip, I introduced myself as Joel’s dad, and explained that I had to go photograph the soccer match that was about to start. As I picked up my gear, Phillip grabbed my hand and I just about crumbled.

For the rest of the day, Phillip was at my side. We were apart only for a short time while I met with and had lunch with the center staff. After I emerged, Phillip appeared again within five minutes.

As we walked across the soccer field, I turned and asked if he had had anything to eat that day. He hadn’t. I pulled a Clif bar and some beef jerky from my camera bag. As I continued walking, Phillip stopped and turned to three little boys who were shadowing us about 15 feet behind. He carefully split the food into thirds, and handed some to each, taking none for himself.

That simple act was profound. I have thought about it, and Phillip, every day since. Sponsorship of a child seems like a very small gift by comparison. ☑

Top left: Life is hard in Kawangware, especially for children.
Above: Joel Van Fossen ’13, Phillip and Vapor child
sponsorship coordinator Johnstone Bukachi.
Left: Drew Van Fossen with Vinnie (top left), Freddie (left)
and Phillip (right). Vinnie and Freddie, brothers, are two of
the many children from the slum who frequent the center.
Search the internet for “adoption stories” or ask around among your friends and you’ll find tales that mix, in varying proportions, enormous expense, indeterminate waiting, bewilderment and heartbreaking twists of plot. But for all their drama and difference, these stories have at their heart the same theme: unconditional love.

Loving arms and loving hearts are the greatest gift that every adoptive family has to offer, as necessary for children to thrive as food and shelter for their sustenance. The St. Norbert community includes many individuals who have both given and received that gift. Here, from several perspectives, are the stories of family members by adoption. They speak to the abiding relationships that enrich their lives.

A great gift

Since 1992, Amy Sorenson and Jamie McGuire have worked together at St. Norbert in the office of the president, Amy as chief of staff and Jamie as executive assistant to the president. That’s a long working relationship, to be sure, but their personal relationship extends much further back. After all, the two are sisters.

Learning of the connection still surprises some on campus. Says Amy, “When they do find out, they say, ‘Really? Oh, now I see the resemblance.’”

The women always chuckle at the comment. Amy, the elder of the two, was adopted. Their parents, James and Florence Aerts, tried for years to have children and then, in their 30s, adopted infant Amy from the former St. Joseph Orphanage in Green Bay. After three years, they returned to adopt Suzie, another sister.

Three years further on, Florence saw her doctor for fatigue,
The cause: At 40, she was, finally, pregnant and expecting Jamie. Amy said her sister was “the most darling baby ever” and “very well doted over.” But that doting didn’t diminish her parents’ love for her and Suzie. “They always made us feel that we were a gift,” she said. Jamie considers them a gift, too. “To me, they’re not adopted. They’re my sisters,” she says.

The trio grew especially close after their mother’s death at age 59, when Jamie was still a teen. “Life would be so different, so lonely, so empty” if her parents had not adopted Amy and Suzie, she said. “Très very, very fortunate — more fortunate than they are.”

Following their mother’s death, both Amy and Suzie petitioned the courts to open their adoption records. Amy had a single 30-minute encounter with her birth mother; Suzie learned that hers had died at 40 of a brain aneurysm. Suzie was to die similarly at age 38, leaving behind a husband and a 5-year-old daughter.

That little girl has grown up and now attends St. Norbert, where her aunts treasure her closeness. Says Amy, “We’ve adopted her; so to speak.” And as for Jamie and Amy? They’re happy to work together. As Jamie puts it, “She’s always told me what to do since I was a little girl and she’s still telling me now, and I’m OK with that.”

A blessed addition

At age 16, plenty of girls are preoccupied with boys, and back in 2004, Steph Lambert ’10 was no exception. In her case, however, the boys who held her in thrall – Chombi and Tomerot – were her newly adopted 4- and 7-year-old brothers.

The boys came from Ethiopia, a country to which Steph herself would soon travel in order to escort other adoptees to the United States.

Prior to the boys’ arrival, the Lambert family – mother Mary, father Mike ’82, Steph ’10 and Jessica ’13 – already was complete by most standards. But unknown to one another, husband and wife each had felt called to add to their family through adoption.

“They felt they were very blessed and wanted to help a child that wasn’t as blessed,” says Steph, now 21.

As family lore has it, Mike and Mary’s mutual wish came to light under the cover of darkness. “For the first and only time in 20 years of marriage, they both woke up in the middle of the night to watch TV,” Steph says.

Airing that night? A program on African adoption.

After watching it, they decided to work with Americans for African Adoption Inc. (AFAA) to bring an Ethiopian child into their family. Ultimately, they became interested in two brothers – AFAA did not separate siblings for adoptive placement – and adopted them both. “It was magical. It was just fantastic,” Steph says of the boys’ arrival five years ago.

Two years later, she stepped in to help other families adopting Ethiopian children. Given the country’s policies at the time, adoptive parents often received prohibitively little notice when their adopted children became available. However, the law did not require them to retrieve their children personally.

Thus, Steph leveraged her youth – “I’m a student, so I’m very flexible,” she says – to bring several adoptees from Addis Ababa to the U.S., with the son of AFAA’s founder. She returned to Africa last year for a semester’s study in Uganda, including internships working with both street children and special-needs adults.

“Some people want to be doctors. Some people want to be zookeepers. I’ve always wanted to go to Africa,” she says.

She plans to return after graduation if circumstances allow it. Until then, she relishes time with her brothers, now 9 and 12, taking them on coffee shop dates for some one-on-one time.

“To this day,” she says, “I’m still absolutely crazy about them.”
A conscious choice

When Joe Bergner '86 and his wife, Joan, began to investigate adoption, they found international adoption offered the quickest route toparenthood; further exploration led them to Kazakhstan, where the culture places a high value on children.

“We were meant to be parents of two kids from Kazakhstan,” Joe says. “We say they couldn’t be more ours if we had them ourselves.”

That doesn’t mean the bond they felt with each of their adopted children—Simon, 6, and Audrey, 3—was instant and identical. Every parent/child relationship follows its own path, whether it’s origins are in the womb or in a complex international legal system—the workings of which Joe details in blogs chronicling both children’s adoptions: www.bringinghimhome.com and www.bringingaudreyhome.com.

With Simon, word of the Bergners’ referral—their official pairing with an available child—came like a gift, on Joe’s 40th birthday. When the couple opened the e-mail they knew contained a photo of their son, Joe said, “We saw his face and it was love at first sight.”

Love came about differently in adopting Audrey when Simon was about 3. The little girl was not a favorite at the Kazakh “baby house” as Simon had been; in part because of developmental delays, she had garnered a reputation as “the naughty one” among her caregivers.

During the month-long visitation required for the Bergners to complete the adoption, and even after they had taken her home, an often-distant Audrey would bang her head against the wall. Her behavior frightened her parents and, most of all, her big (but still little) brother, whose former glow began to fade.

Joe and Joan had expected to feel happiness throughout this process; what they began to feel instead was fear that what they had done in large part for their son’s benefit was destroying him.

In the midst of such doubt, Joan one morning found her Bible opened randomly by Simon to Psalm 35. During previous study she had underlined the latter half of verse 10: “Who else rescues the helpless from the strong? Who else protects the helpless and poor from those who rob them?”

Inspired by a message they considered divine, Joan and Joe made a choice: They would love this little girl— their little girl—through all circumstances. And they have, and so Audrey’s adoption was finalized in a Brown County courtroom in December.

“What this adoption has taught me is that love is a commitment more than a feeling,” Joan says. “She was meant for us and we were meant for her.”

Over time, the commitment they made to Audrey and the love they give her every day is offering the rewards the Bergners expected, says Joan.

“Sometimes Joe and I will say, ‘Hear it? They’re laughing.’ It’s a beautiful thing.”

St. Norbert College is home to the 25th Annual Adoption Conference on March 13.

“Adeoption Through the Years: Celebrating 25 Years” is sponsored by Our Adoption of Northeastern Wisconsin. More information is available online at www.oursadoptionoption.org.

Above: Simon and Audrey Bergner: becoming siblings.

Left: Joe '86 and Joan Bergner, bringing Audrey home. This photo was taken at O'Hare International Airport, Chicago, as the new family returned with Audrey from Kazakhstan.
New online network offers more than 150 ways for alumni to reconnect with classmates

The alumni office is excited to introduce KnightKlux, a new online social network just for St. Norbert College alumni.

KnightKlux offers new opportunities for classmates to catch up with one another and make new connections via any of its 150-plus group pages. They represent academic, fraternity, sorority, social independent, athletic and special interests, alongside the class year affiliations of more traditional directories. In addition to connecting with college friends, KnightKlux gives members the ability to submit their news for class notes online and to register for alumni events.

Alumni can also take advantage of a new career networking feature. Members seeking to hire St. Norbert grads are now able to post job openings on the network. If you are a job seeker yourself, be sure to upload your résumé.

KnightKlux brings with it the opportunity to interact through groups, blogs and even Facebook Connect. Members can socialize online via live chat, or within group pages.

The new network derives its name from the 1940s, the Knight Club was a social center serving snacks and sodas in the basement of Van Dyke Gym. It endured for more than two decades and alumni from the 1950s will remember some of the Saturday night dances that were held there.

When Sensenbrenner Memorial Student Union opened in 1960, the Knight Club moved from Van Dyke to the Union's first floor. Later, it was moved to the Union's basement and a "K" replaced the "C" in the club's name. (That sign is now stored with other memorabilia in the college archives.)

In 2000, the Knight Club was relocated to the lower level of Vanden Heuvel Campus Center and renamed Phil's. Ironically, then, this college institution is back where it started, beneath the Van Dyke Gym that still forms the heart of the Campus Center. And its former name now has a "virtual" life in the shape of this newest college community.

Alums can start reconnecting today by registering on the new network at www.snc.edu/knightklub.

It's a wedding party

Some 3,000 St. Norbert alumni are married — to each other. This summer they will receive invitations to The Wedding Party, the college's first-ever event celebrating the many couples who have fallen in love on its campus.

The event will include a Mass at which couples may renew their vows. Just as in the first time around for many of these husbands and wives, the church service will be followed by a reception and a dinner-dance. The June 5 event will be hosted by several Norbertines. It's a different take on marriage for priests whose summer weekends continue busy as they preside over the next generation of St. Norbert weddings.

Mark your calendars

- March 27 Knights on Broadway Alumni Night
- April 8 “We Were the Charge” (stories of women from the first coeducational classes of St. Norbert College)
- June 4-5 A Day at St. Norbert (formerly Alumni College)
- June 5 The Wedding Party
- Sept. 17-19 SNC Day/Reunion Weekend
- Oct. 23 Homecoming Parade and Tailgate Parties
Opportunities in international education promote expanded world view

It’s not your average college student who gets a chance to meet with world diplomats, sometimes at key points in history. But St. Norbert students who participate in the two-week U.N. seminar led by Gratcia Villarreal (Political Science) are able to build their international knowledge with just such experiences.

In an appearance on the January edition of the “Conversations from St. Norbert College” TV show, Villarreal outlined the opportunities students have in international education.

Students are able to take a semester in Washington, D.C., that can include an internship with a politician or a nonprofit organization such as Amnesty International, said Villarreal, who was the Santo Domingo Visiting Scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies for the 2007-08 academic year. Villarreal said, “The beauty of this program is that not only does it engage students with people who are making policy and who are involved in the politics of the United States - which really, then, gets them very excited about their majors - but also that it usually offers them real skills that they can put into their resume when they’re applying for jobs. It also gives them the network of people to meet that will sometimes be useful to them for their entire lives.”

Then there’s the annual U.N. conference: students were there in 1995 when Bosnia and Herzegovina was rebuilding after the war, for example. This past year a group met with controversial Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and witnessed the demonstrations that took place in New York City. They also spoke with political theorist Benjamin Barber, distinguished senior fellow at Demos and author of “Jihad vs. McWorld.”

Since 2006, Villarreal’s students also have attended and submitted research papers to the Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies Conference, taking first place every year but one. These polished papers can give them an advantage on their graduate school applications, she said.

On campus, students have formed the group Global Scholars, which brings in speakers to discuss international issues and gives students leadership experience as they organize events.

Web Extra: See the full interview with Villarreal. snc.edu/go/magazine
A pronounced success enriches language learning

When St. Norbert College ESL instructor Nadia Venesse traveled to Newfoundland to research dialect for the 2001 film “The Shipping News,” she found herself stranded in her hotel after an accumulation of 22 feet of snow left her with no way to get to her destination.

“I was supposed to catch a charter plane to the northern part of the island,” Venesse says. “It began snowing even more.” Luckily, the hotel staff were from various parts of Newfoundland, so Venesse met with each of them as they ended their shifts, to study their different regional accents.

Venesses’s ability to improvise and solve problems now informs her work as a pronunciation teacher for St. Norbert’s students of English as a second language. “For every pronunciation issue that some of the students had, Nadia could find an example from her experience,” says Janilja Sauranbayeva ’12, a student from Kazakhstan majoring in international business.

Venesses pronunciation class was launched in fall 2008 at the suggestion of ESL director Richard Porior. He knew of Venesse’s time as a voice/speech instructor at New York University and as a dialect coach in film, working with names like Sir Anthony Hopkins, Dame Judi Dench, Steven Spielberg and Oliver Stone. One memory that stands out for Venesse was watching cast members of the 2005 film “North Country,” including Charlize Theron, Woody Harrelson and Frances McDormand, take it upon themselves to practice their accents outside the set in the small northern Minnesota town where the film was shot. “It was wonderful for me to see how these actors just threw themselves into their roles with such enthusiasm,” Venesse says. “It’s a vulnerable position to be out in the community doing the accent.”

Her students face that same vulnerability. But in Venesse’s class, the students have a chance to practice their pronunciation in a non-threatening, creative environment. “I have never had a class like Nadia’s,” Sauranbayeva says. “It is a unique way of teaching. I honestly did not expect that… We did performances, played games, sang songs, read poems and even made a movie. We had tons of fun there.” Venesse says the students also developed a scene for a video game, which was designed to help them transition from one emotion to another while maintaining clarity.

Sauranbayeva, who speaks Russian and Kazakh, says she had a few specific problems with English pronunciation, such as speaking too quickly and struggling with the “r” sound.

“After working with Nadia for two semesters I became much more confident about my pronunciation,” Sauranbayeva says. “I noticed a significant difference in my speaking skills, which helped me a lot with my classes, since we had many presentations there.”

About 150 students have taken the pronunciation class, Venesse says and, even though she’s worked with Hollywood’s elite, the students have managed to surprise her with their talent.

“I see incredible creativity in these students,” Venesse says. “These students are our future.”

In memoriam

The college lost a longtime friend with the death Dec. 2, 2009, of Norbert Flanigan ’40 (Biology, Emeritus). Flanigan was 81.

A member of the first graduating ROTC class, he served in World War II in the Fifth Infantry Division and, among other honors, was awarded the Purple Heart. Flanigan earned his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in Iowa City and taught at St. Norbert 1963-88. He is survived by his sister, Helen, children and grandchildren.
actions. They shared their findings on family relationships, smoking, drinking and sexual activity in a 30-minute end-of-semester presentation, analyzing their data and fielding questions from classmates.

The upper-level course, taught by Beth Tarasawa (Sociology) provides an overview of the survey research process, including research design, data collection and data analysis. Students develop the tools to be critical and careful readers of social research and to design and execute an original research project.

- St. Norbert Choir and Chamber Singers member Amanda Garrity ’11 has recorded an album, “Believe,” to benefit multiple sclerosis research. Garrity, a communications and theatre major who lost her great aunt to MS and whose best friend also was diagnosed with the disease, hopes her efforts will bring awareness to the search for a cure. All proceeds from the album’s sales will go directly to the Wisconsin chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

- Nicole Micolichesk ’11 has presented a program entitled “The Five Dysfunctions of a Team” at a conference of the Great Lakes Affiliates of College and University Residence Halls. She and eight other student members of St. Norbert’s Residence Hall Association attended the conference at Central Michigan University.

Micolichesk, Residence Hall Association executive board secretary, had given the presentation at St. Norbert’s Student Leadership Conference and has been invited to speak on the topic by several departments across campus.

- Joe Jones ’12 had a particular reason for taking a recent J-term class in new venture creation. He thought it would be a unique experience to underscore the launch of his own next venture with an academic grounding in business practice. In high school, Jones already had ownership interests in two businesses, four houses, a duplex and some heavy industrial property.

Much of his J-term course was offered online, so Jones was able to study in his home office even as he designed his latest

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**Student builds individualized major in rapidly developing field**

When Jaime Beine ’10 identified her calling in bioinformatics – the application of computer science to biological systems – she didn’t let St. Norbert’s lack of a degree program in the field deter her from enrolling at the college. Instead, recognizing that the college offers classes in biology, chemistry and computer science – and the opportunity for students to craft individualized majors – she created her own course of study.

“I am very content knowing that I am prepared for a graduate program, but I have received something else. I have received the liberal arts education that no school offering an undergraduate degree in bioinformatics could offer,” Beine said.

With the help of her advisors, Russ Feirer (Biology) and James Hodgson (Biology), Beine designed a major that encompassed every course St. Norbert offers related to bioinformatics. The native of Kohler, Wis., also pursued two summer-long internships that have helped her grow further in her knowledge of the field.

The first, between her sophomore and junior years, was part of a summer research program at Iowa State University. The program included lab time as well as lectures from professors in the school’s graduate program for bioinformatics and computational biology.

The next summer, at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., Beine applied what she had learned in the classroom and during her previous internship.

Interacting with patients and seeing firsthand the impact of her work was a life-changing experience, Beine said, one that reinforced her love of the field.

Beine first discovered bioinformatics as a senior in high school when, during a St. Norbert College “shadow day,” she attended a presentation about rapidly growing careers that included brief mention of the field.

She now has come full circle and will graduate in May with her customized major. Thereafter, Beine plans to pursue a Ph.D. in bioinformatics.
Christmas campaign raises $650

A recent campaign by Chris Mueller '10 to collect $10 bookstore gift cards for disadvantaged students at Milwaukee's Bradley Tech High School raised more than $650 in campus generosity.

Mueller, an art major, initiated the effort to help his high school friend Megan Krueger, a first-year English teacher at Bradley Tech, provide new books for her students for Christmas. Krueger saw growing engagement in the classroom as her students read "To Kill a Mockingbird" and wanted to enable the students, many of whom live below the poverty level, to purchase books of their own.

While Krueger raised funds for bus tickets that would allow her students to travel to a bookstore, Mueller used the college's Classfields listerv to get the word out about the campaign. Everyone from students to professors to staff responded. Mueller was able to present his friend with some 65 gift cards to share with her students, courtesy of the college community.

A friend to remember

As the winter break began, the college community mourned the death of Christine Bronken '11.

Bronken, of Round Lake, Ill., died as the result of a snowmobile accident Dec. 19, 2009.

Bronken, a business administration major, was a member of St. Norbert's wakeboard team and of the CC Hans social group.

"Christy was a mature, committed and ambitious student and advisee," says Terry Jo Leiterman (Mathematics), advisor to the junior during her early years at St. Norbert. "She genuinely valued the opportunity that a well-rounded and vigorous education presents and consequently actively sought exactly that for herself. Christy was charming, polite and good-humored. I, along with so many in our college community, will wholeheartedly miss her."

The community celebrated Bronken's life at a memorial service at Old St. Joe's last month.

Bronken is survived by parents, Jeffrey and Susan, and younger siblings, Tommy and Kate.
**Births/Adoptions**


1953 Shelly (Braun) and Kevin Storke, East Windsor, N.J., a son, William Robert, March 6, 2009.

1944 Stephani (Sed) and Cory Hammel, Whitefish Bay, Wis., a daughter, Paige Elizabeth, Sept. 24, 2009.

1968 Angela (Alfredson) and Brett Lubeck, Savage, Minn., a daughter, Stela Bele, June 1, 2007. Stella joins sister Mira, 6, and brothers Clay and Beck, 4.


1966 Michele (Hillson) and Chad Orthmat, Hugo, Minn., a son, Grant Joseph, June 19, 2009. Grant joins brothers Jacob, 6, and Zachary, 3.

1998 Samantha (Fischer) and Dan VaLente ’94, Green Bay, a son, Bennett Lee, and a daughter, Payton Margaret, June 24, 2009. Bennett and Payton join brother Brady, 4.


1977 Kristin (McCormack) and Bill Schreder, Appleton, Wis., a daughter, Eliza, July 6, 2009.


1995 Michael and Lindsay Santarelli, Yonkers, N.Y., a daughter, Emma Anne, March 20, 2009.


2001 Tara (Nahot) and Jon Kuhl, Garnowntown, Wis., a daughter, Mia Bella, Feb. 9, 2009. Mia joins brother Beau, 3.

2001 Julie (Schilli) and Dan Schramka ’01, Oak Creek, Wis., a son, Charles, Feb. 15, 2009. Charles joins brother Ben, 3.

2002 Amy (Best) and Scott DeYoung, Pleasant Prairie, Wis., a daughter, Grace Addie, July 24, 2009.


2002 Jessica (Miller) and James Rennes, Green Bay, a daughter, Adah Rose, July 26, 2009.

2004 Emily (Eastwood) and Jason Stoffel, Hugo, Minn., two sons, Logan Matthew and Nash Michael, July 27, 2009.

**Deaths**

1947 Francis Herrmann, of Altoona, Wis., died Oct. 27, 2005, at the age of 87. Herrmann served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He taught at Catholic Central High School from 1947-54, then worked as a business manager for the Wisconsin State Journal until his retirement in 1984. Herrmann is survived by his wife of 54 years, Doris, and their four children.

1951 Leland Rohrbans of Menomonie, Wis., died Sept. 1, 2009, at the age of 84. He was a veteran of World War II where he served as a Navy Air Corps pilot in the South Pacific. He is survived by six children.

1951 Gerald Conrad, of Manitowoc, Wis., died Sept. 22, 2009, at the age of 80. He earned a master’s degree from DePauw University in 1939 and worked as a pilot for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad.

1962 The Rev. Thomas Golden, of Bear Creek, Wis., died Jan. 7, 2009, at the age of 78. Golden began his pastoral work at St. Francis Xavier in 1973 and served there for 13 years. He also served as pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Sturgeon Bay and St. John Parish in Menasha. He is survived by his six children.

1973 Joan Claro (Moura) Coughlin of Indianapolis, Ind., died Dec. 22, 2009, at the age of 72. Coughlin was one of the first women to earn a Ph.D. in physics and mathematics from St. Norbert College. After spending 18 years raising her children, she entered the graduate program in physics at George Mason University in 1977. A year later she began working as an environmental scientist at the U.S. Department of Energy, and later worked for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

1979 Louis “Jim” King, of Green Bay, died Jan. 1, 2010, at the age of 78. King served in the U.S. Navy from 1954-55. He earned a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from Northern Michigan University and went on to teach at Green Bay West High School. He is survived by three children.

1990 Col. Thomas Johnson, of Witter, N.C., died Oct. 9, 2009, at the age of 72. Johnson’s military career spanned 32 years during which he was stationed in Europe, the Pacific and throughout the U.S. He served in Vietnam and was awarded the Silver Star during the Tet Offensive of 1968. He is survived by his wife, Joanne, and five children.

1992 Gerald Moseler, of Menomonee, Wis., died Sept. 1, 2009, at the age of 69. He received a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in 1967. He spent 10 years working as a counselor at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and then served in the U.S. Navy from 1954-55. He worked as an assistant football coach for 35 years. Moseler received a 30-year VMA coaching award and was inducted into the National High School Hall of Fame in 1999. He is survived by his wife, Sharon, and four children.

1993 John Bozic of Singer, Wis., died March 7, 2007, at the age of 65. He was retired from Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn, Mich., where he was a design engineer supervisor for the light truck division. He was also retired as a lieutenant


2007 Katie Steinhardt and Mark Evans, Aug. 1, 2009. They live in West Bend, Wis.

**Marriages**


2004 Jennifer Whittington and Steven Petersen ’04, Aug. 8, 2009. They live in Roseville, Minn.


2006 Nicole Serda and Nikolaus Wolf, June 20, 2009. They live in Pewaukee, Wis.


2006 Michelle Murray and Nicholas Heer ’06, June 27, 2009. They live in Lombard, Ill.


Running the pilgrim path

Adventures for body and soul on the holy route to Santiago de Compostela

By Melanie Radzicki McManus ’03

I was getting pretty good at flagging down cars and asking strangers for directions. And after just a few hours on the trail, even the slightest hint of yellow — the color of the trail markers — caught my eye. I was running the last 109 kilometers of Spain’s Via de la Plata, an ancient, 1,000-kilometer pilgrimage route stretching from Seville in southern Spain to Santiago de Compostela in the north, said to be the resting place of St. James’ bones.

I’d been drawn to tackling the Camino, as it’s commonly called, for several reasons. It’s not an easy hike, and I like challenges. (In fact, I decided to run it because I was told by Spanish tourism folks that, well, no one does that.) The journey would also afford me time for reflection and introspection, important practices I’d too often pushed aside as a working mom. And I liked the idea of spending four days in prayer for others. So after gathering intentions from family and friends, I packed my running shoes and headed to Ourense, my starting point on the Via de la Plata.

Pilgrims have been flocking to Santiago to worship ever since St. James’ supposed remains were discovered in the area in 815 A.D.

The pilgrimage’s popularity peaked in the Middle Ages, then steadily declined, by 1986, only 2,500 made the trek annually. But in 1987 the various trails were collectively declared the first European Cultural Route, then named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and interest in the ancient pilgrimage revived. Today more than 100,000 folks make some portion of the hike annually. In Holy or Jubilee Years, when St. James’ July 25 birthday falls on a Sunday, pilgrim numbers double. (This year is a Holy Year.)

The guidebooks say it’s virtually impossible to get lost on the Camino. Never listen to guidebooks. While the route is generally well-marked with bright yellow arrows and conch shells (the latter the symbol of both pilgrim and Camino), there are surprising gaps in the signage, and more than a few terribly faded arrows. Fellow pilgrims sometimes helpfully arrange stones in the shape of arrows to point the way on more remote stretches.

The trail meandered through picturesque Spanish hamlets and small farms, plunged deep into soft pine forests, then up and down rocky mountainous terrain. You never knew what lay around the corner: a sparkling dog, an ageing farmer slowly leading his cows out to pasture, a pierced young gazing askance at the crazy, middle-aged woman running through town. Elderly gentlemen tipped their hats, or berets, at me, wishing me a “Buen camino.” One insisted I take photos of his pumpkins.

I’d heard little miracles happen when you walk the Camino, and it was true. When I needed water in a tiny burg, deserted because it was siesta time, I suddenly spotted a man — who had keys to the town’s grocery in his pocket. When I was lost and didn’t understand a bartender’s directions back to the Camino, a patron got up and drove me there.

Even my prayers, which I’d carefully written out, seemed perfectly timed to my pilgrimage. I passed before a peaceful church cemetery, then saw my next intention was for a friend’s dying mother. I was admiring a cluster of colorful homes, then read a prayer request for the expeditious sale of a relative’s condo.

And every time I stopped to ask directions and was cheerfully given assistance, it was a gentle reminder we’re never alone, and God will always help us along the way. +

To qualify for the prestigious Compostela, an official document certifying you’ve completed the Camino, you must hike or ride horseback at least the final 100 kilometers of one of the pilgrimage routes or bike at least the last 200. To prove you’ve done so, you must first obtain a credential, or pilgrim’s passport, then have it stamped once or twice daily along the route. (Hotels, restaurants, churches and the like all have stamps.) Credentials also afford access to the free albergues, or pilgrim hostels, along the way. Once you reach the pilgrim’s office adjacent to the cathedral in Santiago and show your passport, you’ll receive your Compostela, written in Latin. If you walk at least 100 kilometers of the Camino during this Holy Year, you’re also eligible for a Jubilee indulgence. For more information, see www.americanpilgrims.com.

Melanie Radzicki McManus ’03 at journey’s end in Santiago, Spain.
collected from the Army Reserve. He was active in the American Red Cross of Milwaukee and was on the board of directors for Trout Unlimited’s southeastern Wisconsin chapter. He was preceded in death by his daughter Jennifer and is survived by his wife Karen Wagner ’83 and daughter Jacqueline ’97.

1967 Russell Hermsen, of Sauk City, Wis., died Jan. 23, 2009, at the age of 64. He worked as the band director at Green Bay Preble High School, where he oversaw the concert and marching bands and worked on the annual musical. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia, and a stepson.

Class Notes

1960 Mary (Busch) and Jim Naught ’53 celebrated 50 years of marriage on Sept. 5, 2009. The Naughts are retired and live in Tampa, Fla.

1963 Brad LoDuca has retired after 35 years as elementary counselor in the Port Washington-Saukville (Wis.) School District. He counseled students and parents and taught social studies and health classes emphasizing social skills, moral values, self-care and conflict resolution. He continues to be involved in church worship services and activities as well as community projects. Brad and his wife, Becky, have three married children and live in Port Washington.

1967 J. George McGrath Sr., recently retired as CFO of Poinsett Valley Sewage Commissioners in Newark, N.J., is the fourth-largest sewage treatment plant in the U.S.

1968 Eva Casey of Bethesda, Md., and Marigal Barone ’58, of Boston, recently retired for the first time in 20 years. The former classmate reunions in Washington, D.C., to see Barone’s favorite Smithsonian Museum exhibit — “Julia Child’s Kitchen.”

1972 M. Linda Donovan has been promoted to senior vice president of PNC Bank in northeast Pennsylvania. She has worked at the bank since 1979.

1974 Thomas Stebler has joined the actuarial management team of HealthMarkets Inc. as vice president and actuary. Stebler has worked in the individual insurance business for 25 years and is a fellow of the Society of Actuaries, a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and a fellow of the Life Office Management Association. He is currently a member of the Academy of Actuaries Individual Medical Task Force and the Society of Actuaries.


1983 Mary (Wolff) Koenigsdorfer recently accepted a position in program support with Venable Affairs in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

1994 Mary Elia (McCarty) Bonci has been named Person of the Year for the Battle Creek/Shelby, Mich., area by Scene Magazine.

1984 The original song, “I Want You Tonight,” by Kevin Brandt has been released as part of the compilation “OMC2” by OnTheWaukee.com. The track was recorded in Nashville, and among the featured musicians are Adam Schenck of Big & Rich, Jerry Flowers (of Keith Urban’s band), John Doderick (who plays for The Dax Chicks) and Mary Karlton. Brandt’s song will be released early this year on his new EP release, “Wishful Drinking.”

1985 John Corbett has been appointed chairman and professor of biochemistry at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He comes to his new position from the University of Alabama in Birmingham, where he was professor of medicine and director of the comprehensive diabetes center, and held the Nancy R. and Eugene C. Gwathmey Family Endowed Chair in Juvenile Diabetes Research.

1985 Steve Schneider and Todd Thiel ’81, co-founders of Hibbet Communications, have added seven technology firms to their firm’s network of communication companies. The $25 million business provides wireless phone and high-speed internet service to underserved rural areas in the Midwest. Thiel was featured on the cover of Insight, a northeast Wisconsin business magazine, in December.

1986 Jane Neufeld has been promoted to associate vice president and dean of students at Loyola University Chicago.

1986 Michael Phillips recently was hired as a deputy sheriff by the DuPage County (Ill.) Sheriff’s Office. He anticipates completing his master’s degree in management and organizational behavior in June and is pursuing a career in law enforcement, corporate security, and fraud and insurance investigation.

1988 Tracy Pearson has been appointed CFO and vice president of RTI Inc., a leading energy and environmental consultant. She recently served as CFO for GE Healthcare’s Diagnostic Imaging Services. Pearson earned her master’s degree in business administration from Boston College.

1990 Frank Papernick has been named one of Wisconsin’s Top 50 Super Lawyers by Milwaukee Magazine. Papernick is a plaintiffs’ personal injury attorney at Papernick & Targile S.C. in Brookfield, Wis.

1990 Leslie Manus stars in and produced the short film “The Job,” which won the Special Festival Award at the prestigious Seoul International Short Image and Film Festival in South Korea. Five short films were screened at the festival and five awards granted.

1992 Marie Jacobsen was recently hired as an instructional coordinator and customer relationship management director for Oron, an advertising agency in Minneapolis. She comes to her new position from Martin Williams Advertising, where she served as vice president and group director.

1992 James Brannigan was recently promoted to supervisor of the CPS unit of adult probation for Cook County in Chicago. The CPS unit tracks domestic violence offenders and victims, and is expanding to track sex offenders and violent gang offenders.

1994 Jane (Brooks) Everett has completed her architectural resignation exams and is now a licensed architect in Indiana. She is a senior project architect with BSA LifeStructures in Indianapolis. Everett lives in Fishers, Ind., with her husband, Ken, and their children, Ryan, 6, and Emily, 2.

1995 Dennis Ferker has received a four-year research grant from the National Science Foundation to study the regulation of cellular signaling. Her grant also includes scholarship funds for a St. Norbert undergraduate to participate in a summer research project in her laboratory at SUNY-Buffalo.

1997 Scott Menzel, a northeast Wisconsin artist, saw his latest collection, “Seed of Life,” unveiled at Lambeau Field.

The collection symbolizes a person’s journey from darkness to a life of peace, Menzel, who suffers from spinal muscular atrophy, hopes his work will inspire those dealing with emotional disorders.

1997 Jennifer Garvick has accepted a professional position at the University of Wisconsin-Richland Center and at Madison Area Technical College. She previously worked as an assistant professor of biology at Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa.

1998 Brian Danaher works as an art director, designer and freelance illustrator in Minneapolis. He has led strategic branding, advertising and interactive design initiatives for small and large brands and has been recognized by leading companies.

1999 Carie (Borah) Hertzel is the executive director of the Rhode Island Campus Compact in Providence. The Campus Compact is a national organization representing some six million college students and dedicated to promoting community service, civic engagement and service learning in higher education.

1999 Melissa (Laxue) Fredricks has been promoted to program director of Homes for Independent Living of Wisconsin LLC in Brown and Outagamie Counties.

2003 Jordan Bischel will return to the Green Bay Bulldogs as manager for the 2010 season. Bischel was named interim manager of the team last season.

2004 Kelsey Ebben Gross has co-authored a book entitled “It’s All About Jesus! Faith as an Oppositional College Subculture.” Gross currently works as an academic advisor at the University of Michigan.

2004 Sara Johnson has accepted a position as a staff writer for internal communications at MillerCoors in Milwaukee.

2010 James Cauer has been appointed campus minister for Jesuit (Ill.) Catholic Academy. He is also director of worship and music for Holy Family Parish in Shorewood, Ill.

2010 Peter Pisauro continues his music ventures in the Twin Cities area. Pisauro, a guitarist and vocalist for the band The Wars of 1812, recently formed a duo called Peter Wolf Crier that released the debut album “Inter Be.”

2010 Aaron Yontke currently teaches social studies at Bay Port High School in Green Bay.

2010 Chelsea Kapitan-Daniel has been commissioned as a volunteer for the Cap Corps, a Capuchin volunteer ministry. Kapitan-Daniel is serving at Cartera, a community-based organization run by the Iglesia sisters in Managua, Nicaragua. She will focus on youth and economic development.

Corrections

Notes included in the Fall 2009 issue should have read:

1998 Saul Mitchell Agen won “Best In Show” at the Imago Dei Art Show in Kansas in October 2008 for her painting “Pinkie to Paradise.”


2010 To Beth (Schultz) and Andrew Peters, New Berlin, Wis., a daughter, Hailey Lilian. Aug. 24, 2010.
The voice of vocation

By Brooke Aucter ’10

As the new vocations director at the college and at St. Norbert Abbey, the Rev. John Tourangeau, O.Praem., ’81 can draw on his own layered experience as he seeks to advise others. Vocation does not always arrive in a neat little package. And, while the new director counsels those who are contemplating life as a religious, he continues to reflect on his own journey: “Vocation is something I’ve not only cherished and loved, but I’ve also wrestled with it and struggled with it. There was a time when I stepped away from the priesthood and religious life, after a major heart attack.”

After this near-death experience at the age of 35, Tourangeau studied for master’s degrees in both social work and business administration, and established a private practice as a mental health therapist in Santa Fe, N.M.

“I had everything. I made lots of money. I had nice cars, a nice home. I lived the capitalist individualistic lifestyle, and ultimately came to a point where that no longer held meaning for me. And so I came back. I think that’s an important part of my story,” he says.

Tourangeau, who was born and raised in Escanaba, Mich., is the oldest of four siblings. He recalls that being Catholic was central to family life as he grew up. He regards the women in his family — mother, aunts and grandmothers — as “women of great faith.”

While attending St. Lawrence Seminary in Mount Calvary, Wis., Tourangeau began to experience a call from God toward the religious life. He had every intention of becoming a Capuchin Franciscan like the men who taught him. But, on a weekend visit to St. Norbert Abbey to visit his uncle, Brother Clement Tourangeau, O.Praem., he fell in love with the Norbertine order. He was impressed by the community life at the abbey.

“The guys enjoyed each other’s company. They were happy. They were having fun. They prayed well together,” says Tourangeau.

He joined the order in August 1978. After 21 years in Albuquerque, N.M., Tourangeau has now returned to the home abbey in De Pere, where he is close to his biological family.

In his new role, Tourangeau spends time with young men and women considering the holy life. He suggests that all young graduates search, ask questions and learn. He believes, “It is important to find out where God is calling you to be in life and how God is calling you to be in relationship with others.”

“I have always felt drawn to journey with, to be with, to work with, to pray with people who are struggling in the world. The poor. The disenfranchised. I have always had that dream and that vision.”

Tourangeau, who is fluent in Spanish, served immigrant communities while in New Mexico. “I am just particularly grateful to be able to serve the immigrant peoples here in Green Bay as I did in New Mexico,” he says.

In Memoriam


■ The Rev. Robert Bernard Reppen, O.Praem., ’43 died Nov. 20, 2009, at the age of 90. Reppen attended graduate school at Loyola University and Temple University. After his ordination in 1948, he ministered in many places, serving at St. Willibrord Parish in Chicago, St. John the Evangelist Parish in Essexville, Mich., and St. Joseph Parish in Madison, Wis. He served as chaplain at many hospitals across the Midwest.

■ The Rev. Abin Vladimir Veszelovsky, O.Praem., died Nov. 4, 2009, at the age of 88. Veszelovsky was ordained into the priesthood in 1944. In 1948, he received a licentiate of sacred theology from the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. He earned his doctorate from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in 1951. Veszelovsky served on the faculty at Archmere Academy and at St. Norbert College. He was the associate pastor of St. Willebrord Parish in Green Bay from 1970 until his retirement in 2005. Veszelovsky, whose home abbey was Gocollo in Budapest, Hungary, had resided at St. Norbert Abbey since 1951.
A defensive mindset paired with solid team play has elevated the St. Norbert men’s basketball program to elite status within the Midwest Conference and the larger world of NCAA Division III.

The Green Knights, in their fourth season under head coach Gary Grzek, ranked No. 9 nationally late in the season after breaking through the previous year to reach as high as No. 11 in the rankings. The program’s rapid ascension took hold in Grzek’s second season, when the Knights qualified for their first conference tournament appearance in six years.

The turning point came early in the 2008-09 campaign, when the Knights upset then-top-ranked University of Wisconsin-Platteville in the championship game of the Nuese Bank Holiday Classic at the Schuldes Sports Center. It was the first victory over a No. 1-ranked opponent for any sport at St. Norbert history.

“My second year here, we had some good victories in games we probably shouldn’t have won,” Grzek recalls. “Then last year the game that got us over the top was beating Platteville. To have the opportunity of playing the No. 1 team in the country is a part of their building is unique, and especially to be able to come back and play a great second half when we were down by 15 points was special.”

The team’s efforts continue to pay off in results, illustrated by a dominant run this season and their first conference championship in eight years. At time of press, the Green Knights men were readying to host the Midwest Conference Tournament, and the women’s team was close to clinching its conference championship, too. St. Norbert, ranked ninth in scoring defense at the time in all of Division III, held high-scoring Carroll 21 points below its season average. Grzek unabashedly admits his coaching philosophies and defensive brand of basketball are a direct link to his time under legendary coach Dick Bennett at Division I UW-Green Bay.

Grzek was a consummate team player for the Phoenix, graduating in 1996 with more assists (496) than points (450), and earning the team’s Defensive Player of the Year Award all four of his seasons with the team.

“I’d be dumb not to follow the teachings of Coach Bennett,” Grzek says. “It’s been proven that his system not only wins games, it wins championships.”

Bennett, who went on to lead the University of Wisconsin to a Final Four appearance after leaving Green Bay, says Grzek’s greatest coaching attribute is his demeanor.

“Intuitively, he’s one of the most poised individuals I’ve ever coached,” Bennett states. “He’s very calm on the outside, but also very calm on the inside. He’s got a great presence of mind that is such an asset in any business, but especially in the business of coaching. He just doesn’t rattle. I knew whatever he did that he was going to be successful.”

For his part, Grzek downplays his past and concentrates on preaching the Bennett philosophies to his own players. His ability to recruit players that are willing to play hard and unselfishly has been the key to the Knights’ success.

“You have to identify kids who are going to work out well academically to begin with,” he explains. “You judge their skill level and passion for the game. They’re coming to St. Norbert for academics first and basketball to complement that. They have to have their priorities straight.

“Recruiting is such an inexact science. As much as you try to research kids, there are things you don’t know until they get to campus and you start working with them. In any good program, you have to have kids who are willing to be unselfish and do what the coaches ask. After you get that, then you have to get them to play smart and execute.”

By Mike Dauplaise ’84
Saving goals, saving souls

Avid hockey player and fan Bishop Thomas Paprocki donned the green and gold to practice with the Green Knights and Coach Tim Coughlin at the Cornerstone Ice Center Nov. 5.

The auxiliary bishop of Chicago has skated with the Chicago Blackhawks and the Columbus Blue Jackets of the National Hockey League.

The 57-year old “Holy Goalie” saves souls and goals. Before taking to the ice at Cornerstone, he spoke to the student-athletes about sports and faith: “I tried to tell them a little bit about the connection between sports and faith. Prayer is an important part of what we do, and it’s not just reading prayers out of books. Prayer is a conversation with God.”

Paprocki, who plays in an over-30 no-check hockey league in Chicago and ran his 15th marathon last October, stayed in town to watch St. Norbert College’s hockey game with Bethel University the next day.

Coughlin says: “You are lucky to have a bishop come and speak to your congregation, let alone have him come to your locker room and talk about something that is so near and dear to your heart—sport and spirituality.”

“The more times we can expose our young men to positive influences like Bishop Paprocki, like Fr. Jim Baraniak—just tremendous men—the better. Hopefully that helps engage them more in their own spiritual life.”

The bishop is a former classmate of the Bishop of Green Bay, David Ricken. He sits on the board of Catholic Athletes for Christ alongside Baraniak, the pastor of the college parish. During the course of the school year, Baraniak will bring others of his board colleagues to the college to meet with St. Norbert athletes.

Jeff Kurowski, of The Compass, newspaper of the Diocese of Green Bay, covered practice with the Holy Goalie. His interview, with images, can be seen at www.snc.edu/go/holygoalie.

... and a national trifecta

The week of Dec. 15 found St. Norbert the only Division III athletics program in the country with its men’s basketball, women’s basketball and men’s hockey teams all simultaneously appearing in the national rankings. The hockey team remained at No. 5 in the USCHO.com poll. The men’s basketball team climbed four spots to No. 15 in the D3hoops.com Top 25 following its 6-0 start to the season. And women’s basketball ranked 21st in the same poll, also four spots up from the previous week.

Everything in its Time

The Rev. James Baraniak, O.Praem., ’88 drew the lead in a recent Time magazine article headlined “God and Football: The NFL’s Chaplains Give Advice.” Baraniak combines his duties as college pastor with his ministry to the Green Bay Packers.

“For most of football season, Father James Baraniak wears his green vestment with gold lining when he performs Mass in Green Bay, Wis.,” the article begins. “And while it has nothing to do with the Packers’ team colors—green is mandated by the Vatican—it is something of a holy coincidence, given the fact that he has been the Packers’ chaplain for the past 13 years.” The inevitable switch from the liturgical green of ordinary time to the purple of Advent—purple being associated with both penitence and the Minnesota Vikings—inevitably prompts some teasing from the Packers faithful.
## Spring on Campus

As the leaves return to the trees and the layers of cold weather gear are shed, think about a visit to campus, where you will find plenty of activities to entertain and educate the whole family. For more information about these events and many more, visit the online calendar at www.snc.edu/calendar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Chamber Music Concert</td>
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<td>April 8</td>
<td>“We Were the Change: the Stories of Women From the First Coeducational Classes of St. Norbert College”: a Killeen Chair lecture and panel discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>Women’s Enrichment Series presents “Musical Theatre: America on Stage” with Michael Rosewall (Music)</td>
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<td>April 27</td>
<td>Fresh Ink Composition Concert</td>
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<td>May 1</td>
<td>Alumni Softball Game</td>
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<td>May 16</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 26-28</td>
<td>“A Mirror of Our Culture: Sport and Society in America”: an academic conference co-hosted with the Green Bay Packers</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 22-30</td>
<td>St. Norbert College Music Theatre presents “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”</td>
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### Get social!

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