

community

A newsletter for the faculty and staff of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University

For Some, Diversity Issues Are Personal

prepared by Glenda Isaacs Burgeson,
Community editor, Communication
and Marketing Services

As a high school student, Jaime Ramirez did not consider himself college material. College was for other people, he thought.

Despite his accomplished record in both academics and leadership, he did not envision himself as a college student, until a monk visiting his pastor told him, "You should think about college."

With that small nudge, Ramirez became the first member of his family to attend and graduate from college.

In view of the strategic emphasis on boosting diversity at CSB/SJU, the experience and perspective of Ramirez may prove instructive. A 2000 SJU graduate, he is the founder and director of Fast Forward Youth Program, a Chicano-Latino-Hispano college initiative and outreach program in the CSB/SJU Admission Office.

As director, he trains and supervises a group of CSB/SJU student volunteers who serve as tutors/mentors with Chicano-Latino-Hispano youth in central Minnesota. Ramirez observes benefits for both the volunteers and the young people they serve.

"I have student volunteers who tell me their interaction is their first experience with people of color. That is shocking to me. We provide a safe cultural experience in a less intimidating way for our students to engage in simple relationships."

For some CSB/SJU students, Ramirez

said inexperience with people of different races or ethnic origin results in discomfort, ignorance, apathy or animosity.

"Some may have misinformation about the academic qualifications of students of color or international students. A small number may be hostile or uncertain.

"They have a lack of exposure, but now things are changing so fast. Individuals who have had multicultural experiences prior to becoming students here seek diverse experiences once they get here," he said.

For those who lack that exposure, education can and should make a difference, he said. For example, multicultural education could easily be integrated into symposium. In his office, he keeps resources about tolerance published by the Southern Poverty Law Center within arm's reach, to help educate his volunteers as well as the students they work with.

Ramirez acknowledged that there are multicultural educational opportunities on the campuses. He cited the Latino/Latin American Studies Learning Community as an example. In his view, however, many of the initiatives to promote or celebrate diversity are working in isolation. In order to create a campus climate conducive to a more diverse student body, there needs to be a more concerted, comprehensive effort, he said.

"We need to make students feel welcome, make sure they have a sense of belonging." For example, he said the location of the Multicultural

House is out of the way. "It should be more visible, and accessible."

Manju Parikh, associate professor of political science, uses insights from her experience as a former "outsider" to help students honor the Benedictine value of hospitality.

Parikh first came to the United States 30 years ago as a graduate student at the University of Chicago. She remembers feeling lonely and isolated, until a friend from India gave her some advice.

"She told me that Americans are respectful of others' privacy and that if I reach out to them, most will respond. She was right."

After that, Parikh said the first person to whom she introduced herself became her best friend.

"We need to reach out to make certain that others feel welcome."

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COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict



Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

Inspired Learning. Inspiring Lives.

Museum Exhibit Features Anishinabeg Culture

submitted by Katie Perry, publicist, Saint Benedict's Monastery

An exhibition entitled, "The Living Culture of the Anishinabeg," is featured at The Art and Heritage Place/Haehn Museum at Saint Benedict's Monastery and continues through Aug. 28.

The exhibit includes items that reflect the long association between the OSB sisters and the Anishinabeg, also known as the Ojibwe or Chippewa. Their relationship began in the late 1800s and continues today. Also featured are artifacts and photographs related to the tribe's dependence on the seasons to provide a livelihood. Bandoliers, baskets, toys, beadwork, and birch bark containers as well as food preparation and storage items are included.

The project was undertaken in collaboration with representatives from the reservations of Red Lake, White Earth, and Mille Lacs in northern Minnesota, personnel from the Minnesota Historical Society and Stearns Historical Museum, and a private collector. The exhibition depicts traditional life from the past as well as contemporary life.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. The Haehn Museum is located at the Art and Heritage Place, Saint Benedict's Monastery, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph.

Spirituality Programs and Retreats Offered

submitted by Katie Perry, publicist, Saint Benedict's Monastery

The Spirituality Center at Saint Benedict's Monastery offers one-to-three-day retreats, faith formation programs, personal retreats and spiritual direction. Offerings are open to both women and men of all faith denominations. The following lists upcoming events:

Ash Wednesday Retreat — Wednesday, Feb. 9, presented by Dewey Kramer,

Theresa Schumacher, OSB, and Josue Behnen, OSB. The retreat offers participants a time to consider prayerfully their Lenten journey through the challenges of human frailty to the joy of Easter.

Monthly Mini-Retreat: Time Out for God — Thursdays: Feb. 17, March 31, April 28, 4:45-9 p.m., at the Gathering Place, presented by Joyce Iten, OSB, or Helene Mercier, OSB. Participants will enjoy a quiet evening at the Spirituality Center that includes Eucharist and dinner at the Monastery, followed by group *Lectio Divina* (praying with Scripture) and quiet time for reading, reflection and praying. An optional bed and breakfast are available for those who wish to stay overnight.

Why Lent? Ask Jesus! — Thursdays: Feb. 17, March 3 and March 17, 9-11 a.m., presented by Angelo Hasbert, OSB. Participants will read and reflect on the Gospel of Mark.

Introduction to *Lectio* — Monday, Feb. 21, 7-9 p.m., presented by Josue Behnen, OSB. *Lectio* is an ancient prayer practice that has been rediscovered in recent years. By reflecting on our lives in the light of Scripture, we can learn how God can be part of our everyday life.

Daily Centering Prayer — Monday through Friday, 4:25-4:50 p.m., at the Spirituality Center. Everyone is welcome.

Spiritual Direction is available on a regular basis. Partial sponsorship assistance is available. The fee is \$35 for a one-hour session. Contact Josue Behnen, OSB, at 363-7179 or jbehnen@csbsju.edu

Internship in Spiritual Direction

Applications are being accepted for persons interested in learning or enhancing the art of spiritual direction. Contact Kathryn Casper, OSB, at 363-7028 or kcasper@csbsju.edu

Private Retreat

Gift yourself with some quiet time away. Spacious grounds and a wooded area provide an atmosphere for prayer, quiet reflection and relaxation. You are invited to worship with the monastic community in the daily Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours. The fee is \$45 per day, which includes meals and overnight. Meeting with a spiritual director can be arranged for an additional \$30. Contact Rita Budig, OSB, at 363-7115 or rbudig@csbsju.edu

All programs and retreats are conducted at the Spirituality Center at Saint Benedict's Monastery, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph. For more information or to register, please call 363-7116 or e-mail dmanuel@csbsju.edu

The Welcome Mat:

We welcome the following to the CSB/SJU community:

Dana Wells, Nutrition

Mary Lee Griebler, President's Office

Gary Gillitzer, Nursing

Larry Hanson, Education

Kris Fremo, Athletics

Farewell to Friends:

Marsha Woolcott, Food Service

Jill Farry, Internships/Academic Affairs

Faculty/Staff News

Leigh Dillard, assistant professor of dance, has been selected to be one of three adjudicators of the 2005 Modern Atlanta Dance Festival. Founded in 1995, the festival has evolved into Atlanta's only professionally adjudicated modern/contemporary dance event. Each year, more than 50 individual artists and companies are presented.

In July, Dillard took part in the second year of "Igniting Biblical Imagination," sponsored by the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research. She was one of 13 participants from throughout the United States, including Jewish and Christian artists, writers, poets, clergy, faculty and theologians.

In mid-August, she attended "Movement and the Development of Sense of Self, a multidisciplinary symposium on research and the Feldenkrais Method, at Seattle University.

Dillard recently participated in "Biomechanics and Dance," at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Co-sponsored by the Mike and Penny Winton Chair, College of Liberal Arts, the Minnesota Center for the Philosophy of Science, and the University Dance Program, the conference brought together world-renowned scientists with particular expertise on the physics and bio-mechanics of human movement, scholars with interests in the relations between science and dance and distinguished dance artists and educators. World-renowned choreographer Elizabeth Streb gave the keynote address.

Fr. R. Kevin Seasoltz, OSB, JCD, received the 2005 Berakah Award from the North American Academy of Liturgy on Jan. 7, in Louisville, Ky. A monk at Saint John's Abbey, Fr. Kevin is editor of *Worship* magazine and teaches canon law and liturgy at the SJU School of Theology. The Berakah Award has been given annually to a member of the Academy since 1976.

Fr. Anthony Ruff, OSB, youth choir director and assistant professor of theology, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Bishops Committee on the Liturgy as a member of the Subcommittee on Liturgy and Music. This committee advises the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Fr. Anthony gave three talks in January at the annual meeting of the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians in Omaha, Neb., on the role of the choir from a liturgical and spiritual standpoint. He also gave a presentation on recent developments in Gregorian chant interpretation.

Erin Szabo and **Aric Putnam**, assistant professors of communication, presented at the National Communication Association Conference in Chicago, Ill., in November 2004.

Szabo presented "The Interplay of Assessment Design and Enactment" and was on a Communication Assessment Division panel discussion titled "From Students to Stakeholders: Designing and Enacting Assessment Across the University." Szabo is also chair of the Academic Assessment Committee (AAC) at CSB/SJU.

Putnam presented two papers, "Repetition: The Emperor's New Jones" and "The Cosmopolitan/Nationalism of the Black Internationale" (also at the NCA convention in Chicago).

Don Turk, assistant professor of communication, has received notification that the article he co-authored with John E. Hocking has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Adolescence*. The title of the article is "The Effects of Condom Insistence on the Perceptions of Adolescents in First Time and Repeated Occasions of Sexual Intercourse."

Patricia Bolaños, associate professor, MCL, had published by Pearson-Prentice Hall a student activity manual to accompany the Spanish language text *Identidades*.

Linda Tennison, associate professor of psychology, has recently contracted with Thomson-Wadsworth to author a psychopharmacology textbook.

(Diversity, Continued from Page One)

She believes that emphasis could start at orientation, by inviting new students to reach out to someone else. In her class on international relations, Parikh does just that, challenging her students to become ambassadors.

"I want to give them a positive message, that they can represent the most positive aspects of our American culture by showing that they care."

Editor's note: Ramirez has recently completed a master's degree in social work and will be leaving CSB/SJU to pursue other career opportunities.

In the Media

Saint John's hockey coach John Harrington is featured in the book, *The Boys of Winter*, by Wayne Coffey with a forward by Jim Craig. The book focuses on the ingenious ploy that U.S. Olympic hockey team coach Herb Brooks concocted to lay the psychological groundwork for the 1980 victory against the Soviets; that is the behind-the-scenes schedule machinations the U.S. undertook beforehand. It also reflects the torment that has stayed with Soviet coach Viktor Tikhonov to this day. Furthermore, it pinpoints the secret fear that U.S. captain Mike Eruzione and other U.S. players had in the game's final 10 minutes.

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Deadline for March issue is February 18.

To share your information and story ideas, simply
e-mail them directly to Community at: community@csbsju.edu.

Is Your Heart Living Up To Its Potential?

By Jennifer Hitzemann, CSB senior biology major, psychology minor

A healthy diet and regular exercise reduce the risks of heart disease, but does a healthy heart require more? Why do we always feel better giving gifts than receiving them? Sir Winston Churchill once stated: "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."* My guess is that when many of us consider the actual proportion of what we receive versus what we give, we find that we are often more preoccupied with making a living than with how we make a life. Our personal and professional lives take priority over community, church and the less fortunate.

Being other-centered is good for the heart. In comedian Margaret Cho's Weblog she states, "If we have the opportunity to be generous with our hearts, ourselves, we have no idea of the depth and breadth of love's reach."* We have an enormous amount of opportunity in our lives to have healthier hearts through giving ourselves to others; the question is how far do you want your heart's reach to go?

Following the holidays, donations of food, clothing and time decrease, but the needs of people do not. The following activities will make a difference in other's

lives and contribute to a healthy heart.

Donate to your local food shelf:

- St. Joseph Community Food Shelf, St. Joseph
- Good News Food Shelf, Cold Spring
- Saint Benedict's of Avon Food Shelf, Avon
- Caritas Emergency Services Food Shelf, St. Cloud
- The Salvation Army Food Shelf, St. Cloud

Donate items to The Salvation Army or Anne Marie's Shelter.

Give your time to help serve those in need.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, please visit First Call for Help at: <http://www.fcfh.org/>.

For a more diverse listing of food shelves visit: http://www.mnhungerpartners.org/MAP/pub_fslisting.asp?fb=11.

To learn more about poverty and hunger in the United States read: Schwartz-Nobel, Loretta. (2002). *Growing Up Empty: The Hunger Epidemic in America*. New York: Harper-Collins Publisher.

*Quotations used found at: www.quotationspage.com.

Editor's note: Each month, the Healthy Learning Community and the Partners for Healthy Learning promote a health theme to the CSB and SJU campuses. These groups are involved in the promotion of physical, intellectual, emotional, social, occupational and spiritual health. To learn more about the Healthy Learning Community and the Partners for Healthy Learning, please visit the Web site at <http://www.csbsju.edu/extending/projects.htm>