

# community

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

## *CSB Students Travel to UAE for Conference for Women*

CSB sent a 13-person international delegation to the Women as Global Leaders Conference March 10-15, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The delegation included Rita Knuesel, CSB/SJU academic dean and associate provost; Mary Geller, vice president for CSB student development; and Mary Farrell Bednarowski, a member of CSB's Board of Trustees.

The conference allowed young women leaders from around the world to gather, meet important international leaders, establish partnerships and gain insight into the dynamic changes underway around the globe. This year's theme, "Communities in Transition," focused attention on the ways women can act in leadership roles at the grassroots level to effect change on local, regional or even global scales.

Keynote speakers included Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan; Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights; Cherie Booth, wife of United Kingdom Prime Minister Tony Blair and a noted British attorney and human rights advocate; Her Excellence Sheikha Lubna Al-Qasimi, UAE minister of economy and planning; Pia Beckmann, mayor of Wurzburg, Germany; and Barbara Bodine, former U.S. ambassador to Yemen (1997-2001) and a senior fellow at The Kennedy School

of Government, Harvard University.

Delegates from 69 countries attended the conference, which was hosted by Zayed University.

"We may be one of the larger student delegations from the United States," said Geller, who attended the conference last year as part of a four-member CSB delegation. A total of 37 CSB students applied to attend the conference.

"These (10) students in particular were able to articulate in writing why they were interested in attending this conference, and what they would do back on campus with the information they gathered," Geller said.

Travel and nominal registration fees were covered by CSB (housing and most meals were included in the registration). The registration fee is nominal because Zayed University heavily subsidizes the conference so that it is affordable.

"Zayed University is highly generous in its hospitality and in all that they provide conference delegates. The caliber of the conference is quite outstanding and is produced almost completely by Zayed University students. I hope our students are inspired and motivated not only by the conference speakers but by the commitment and dedication of the Zayed student delegation," Geller said.

The CSB students attending, representing four countries, included:

- Bibi Abdalla, a first-year political science major from St. Paul;
- Alina Balonuskova, a junior individualized major in Spanish from Riga, Latvia;
- An Doan, a junior liberal studies/international studies major from Ha Noi, Vietnam;
- Rachel Dougherty, a junior political science major from International Falls, Minn.;
- Mai Moua, a first-year psychology major from St. Paul;
- Jennifer Northup, a junior theater major from Bend, Ore.;
- Kristen Nowak, a senior communication and Spanish major from Dayton, Minn.;
- Vanja Paunic, a junior computer science major from Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina;
- Elizabeth Super, a sophomore political science major from St. Paul;
- Molly Weyandt, a junior management major from Lake Elmo, Minn.

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## CSB/SJU Hosts Spring Policy Forum on “Metropolitan Growth”

The CSB/SJU Public Policy Learning Community sponsors its annual Spring Policy Forum at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, at the Stephen B. Humphrey Auditorium on the SJU campus. The topic of this year’s event is, “Metropolitan Growth: Debating the Good Life.”

A four-person panel will discuss issues of land use, housing and transportation, and look at the questions, “How do we grow?” and “Where do we go?”

“This panel brings together nationally-known experts with diverse viewpoints on the best ways to respond to a myriad of public policy issues facing our growing metropolitan areas,” said Matt Lindstrom, associate professor of political science at CSB/SJU and director of the PPLC. “Covering ecology, economics and ethics, the panel is sure to be both informative and entertaining.”

The panel consists of:

- Karen Anderson, mayor of Minnetonka, Minn., from 1994-2005, and a past president of the National League of Cities (2001-02). She completed a term as president of the League of Minnesota Cities in 1996, and served for eight years as a Minnetonka council member at-large.
- Joel Kotkin, an Irvine Senior Fellow at the New America Foundation. He is the author of a number of books on cities and urban growth, including *The City: A Global History* and *The New Geography, How the Digital Revolution is Reshaping the American Landscape*.
- Parris Glendening, executive director of the Smart Growth Leadership Institute (SGLI) and the former governor of Maryland (1995-2003). The SGLI was created by Glendening to help state and local elected, civic and business leaders design and implement effective smart growth strategies.

- Randal O’Toole, an economist who has been director of the Oregon-based Thoreau Institute since 1975, and an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute since 1995. His recent research and policy interests have centered on regional planning and growth management in Portland, Ore., and more recently, on the new urbanism. His publication, “The Vanishing Automobile and Other Urban Myths,” is a critical appraisal of growth management and regional planning in Portland.

The panel will be moderated by Ernie Diedrich, professor of economics and environmental studies at CSB/SJU. A member of the faculty since 1980, he is known for his intellectual and social interest in environmental economics. Diedrich co-founded the school’s environmental studies program, and has served in a variety of leadership roles in non-profits, such as the Minnesota League of Conservation Voters, the Minnesota Project and, most recently, the Avon Hills Initiative.

The event is free and open to the public.

## CSB/SJU Students Participate in “Private College Scholars at the Capitol”

Three students from CSB and SJU, accompanied by their faculty advisors, presented the results of their scholarly research at the third annual “Private College Scholars at the Capitol” Thursday, March 9, at the State Capitol, St. Paul.

They were among 29 students representing 11 private colleges in Minnesota displaying their work at the capitol rotunda.

Students and their mentors met with state senators and representatives to present their research findings and discuss the positive impact of undergraduate research on higher education, their

local community and the state.

The students and faculty advisors representing CSB/SJU were:

- Sean Abernathy, a senior economics major from Wheaton, Ill., presenting research on “Does foreign direct investment significantly affect emigration rates in developing nations?” His faculty advisor is Sharmistha Self, assistant professor of economics.
- Erin Saupe, a senior natural science major from St. Joseph, presenting research on “Mary Anning: The greatest fossilist the world ever knew.” Her faculty advisor is Larry Davis, professor of geology and biology.
- Eve Vang, a junior political science major from St. Paul, presenting research on “The Hmong refugee resettlement 2005.” Her faculty advisor is Manju Parikh, associate professor of political science.

“Our aim in producing this event was to publicize and celebrate the achievements of just a few of the many thousands of exceptional students who attend private schools of higher learning in Minnesota,” said Marcus Webster, CSB/SJU professor of biology and director of the Undergraduate Research Program who chairs the coordinating committee for the event. “The students we present have gone far beyond the ordinary requirements for a baccalaureate degree to contribute new knowledge or advance their own creativity in exceptional ways.”

Webster noted that while private colleges are financially supported mainly by tuition payments and contributions, “the applied and basic research accomplished at Minnesota’s private schools contributes significantly to the health of our communities and natural environment, the welfare of our citizens, and the wealth of knowledge in our world.”

## Rooney Research Projects Announced

Rooney Research Projects have been announced for summer 2006 and include projects associated with the inaugural Science Student Exchange Program with Southwest University in China. The Rooney Endowment Fund was established at SJU in 1991, by the late Mrs. Florence Rooney, who asked that proceeds from her bequest be used to support human health-related research by our faculty. Each summer the endowment funds a number of fellowships for students to work in collaboration with CSB/SJU faculty on projects with a health emphasis. Many of these students go on to pursue careers in medicine or academic science. Their research training, and the scholarly publications and presentations that result from our faculty's research, honor Mrs. Rooney's memory.

The following Rooney Projects were funded for summer 2006:

Carie Braun, nursing, animal-assisted therapy as a pain intervention for children.

Henry Jakubowski, chemistry, production of mutant human adimpoocyte acid phosphatase to study its activity in normal, stimulated, and transformed cells. This project is part of the Science Student Exchange Program with China, in which CSB/SJU students will spend six weeks studying at Southwest University in Beibei, Chongqing, China, and then return to Minnesota with their Chinese student partners for another six weeks of research. This is the first year of this program, developed under the leadership of Professor Jakubowski.

Michael Heroux, computer science, a virtual East Gemini Lake: modeling and simulating prescription medicine traces in our wastewater treatment system.

Michael Ross, chemistry, photochemical breakdown of antidepressants in East Gemini Lake. This project is also

a Science Student Exchange Project. Professors Ross and Heroux and their students will use computer modeling and direct chemical measurements to track prescription medications in East Gemini.

Ellen Jensen, biology, cell-to-cell communication in the yeast, *Candida albicans*.

Brian Johnson, chemistry, synthesis of a ligand to model the active site of ceruloplasmin.

Michael Reagan, biology, Does DNA damage block transcription?

Laura Rodgers, nursing, psychopharmacology and psychotherapy in the chronically mentally ill.

Linda Tennison, psychology, physical and psychological risk factors for mortality in the Russian Far East. Professor Tennison and a student will travel to Russia to assess first-hand the causes for high male mortality in Russia.

Charles Rodell, biology, genetic analysis of heart rate in *Drosophila*.

Dan Steck, physics, environmental radiation hazard assessment for Minnesota.

## Parker Named to Lead Libraries

Kathy Parker has been selected as the new director of the CSB/SJU Joint Libraries and Media, effective July 1. She will succeed Michael Kathman, who is retiring.

Parker is library director at West Virginia Wesleyan College and will bring more than 25 years of college library experience to the position. Her expertise in library management, undergraduate library development and library collection digitalization will assist the Joint Libraries in meeting the curricular and scholarly needs of faculty and students. Under her leadership and direction the institutions' commitments to excellence in library services, especially access and timely responsiveness to all users, will be sustained and strengthened. In addition,

a renewed strategy will be developed to enhance and balance traditional print collections and digitalization initiatives in the service of major curricular initiatives and within budgetary constraints. Also, Parker's experiences in accreditation and strategic plan development will be assets to the entire academic community.

## Beaudoin Featured as Koch Chair Lecturer

Tom Beaudoin, assistant professor of religious studies at Santa Clara University, gave a talk, "Is Your Spirituality Violent?" March 9, at Alumnae Hall, CSB.

His public lecture was sponsored by the Koch Chair in Catholic Thought and Culture at CSB. Since its inception in 2002, the Koch Chair provides opportunities to place the best of Catholicism's contribution to the intellectual life in all its plurality in conversation with the arts and sciences.

Beaudoin is the author of two books: *Consuming Faith: Integrating Who We Are With What We Buy*, and *Virtual Faith: The Irreverent Spiritual Quest of Generation X*.

## The Record Ranks First at Minnesota Newspaper Association Contest

The CSB/SJU student newspaper, *The Record*, won 10 awards, including first place for general excellence for the second consecutive year, from the Minnesota Newspaper Association's 2004-05 College Better Newspaper Contest Jan. 27 at the Sheraton Hotel South in Bloomington, Minn.

*The Record* also took first place in categories of typography and design and the editorial page as a whole. The contest was judged by newspaper professionals from Wisconsin.

There were also seven individual awards given out to *Record* reporters.

Matt Smith won first place in general reporting for his story "A voice silenced." Brad Arendt placed first both in feature writing for his work "Recycling the soul," and in photo story photography for his piece "Fire & Art."

Peter Polga-Hecimovich won a second-place award for his column writing, Kelly Smith won second place in best social issues for her feature story "Homeless in St. Cloud," Arendt took second in sports action/feature photography for "Rugby wound," and Marie Alton took second place in sports reporting for "Assisting those beyond the field."

*The Record* has been the official student newspaper for CSB/SJU since 2001 and SJU since 1888. Dana Drzenovich, a member of the communication faculty, is the student adviser.

## Faculty/Staff News

**Fr. Anthony Ruff**, assistant professor of theology and youth choir director, has been granted a \$5,000 Lilly Theological Research Grant in support of his coming sabbatical project to write a manual of Gregorian Chant and a brief history of Catholic liturgical music.

**Don Fischer**, assistant professor/physical education chair and CSB strength and conditioning coach, has received word that his study, "The Effect of Certified Personal Trainer Services on Stage of Exercise Behavior and Exercise Mediators in Female College Students," has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of American College Health*. Fischer co-authored the study with Jennifer Bryant, a CSB senior majoring in psychology.

**Kay Wolsborn**, professor of political science, presented a paper on the assessment of student learning in a political science curriculum at the annual Teach-

ing and Learning Conference, sponsored by the American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C., Feb. 18-20.

The following fine arts and social sciences Division Heads have been selected and their terms are effective July 1, 2006:

Fine Arts, **Fr. Bob Koopmann, OSB**, professor of music, three-year term.

Social Sciences, **Joe Friedrich**, professor of economics, one-year term.

**Brian Campbell's** music composition student, **Charlie McCarron**, is the winner of this year's Duluth/Superior Symphony Young Composers Competition Contest. Charlie's tone poem, "The Singing Bone," will be performed later this season at one of their regular subscription concerts. In addition, he received \$1,000. Campbell is an associate professor of composition.

**John Merkle**, professor of theology, has an essay titled "The God of Israel and Christian Worship" in the recently published book *Seeing Judaism Anew: Christianity's Sacred Obligation*, edited by Mary C. Boys (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2005). This book expands upon and explores the implications of the 2002 document "A Sacred Obligation: Rethinking Christian Faith in Relation to Judaism and the Jewish People," now published in nine languages, which Merkle co-authored with other members of the Christian Scholars Group on Christian-Jewish Relations. At a recent event at Boston College celebrating the publication of *Seeing Judaism Anew*, Merkle gave a presentation titled "What Seeing Judaism Anew Means for Me as a Christian."

Merkle also has five essays in *A Dictionary of Jewish-Christian Relations* published in December 2005, by Cambridge University Press. His essays

are "Afterlife," "Death," "Life," "Heschel, Abraham Joshua," and "Vatican II." Another of his articles, "Vatican II's *Nostra Aetate* and Beyond: A New Era in Christian-Jewish Relations," appears in the October 2005 issue of *Basilica*, the magazine of the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis.

In addition, Merkle recently agreed to serve on the staff of peer reviewers for *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations*, the newly launched electronic journal of the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations published by The Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College.

**Vilma Chiu Walter**, instructor in the department of modern and classical languages and literatures, presented three guest lectures at Southwest China University in December 2005, titled: "Spanish Speaking Countries in Latin America and their Cultures," "The American Educational System" and "Perú and the Chinese in the Americas." The lectures were well attended and received by SWU students and faculty.

**Sanford Moskowitz**, assistant professor of management, presented two papers, "Internationalization of SMEs and Entrepreneurship in the Transition Economies of Eastern Europe" and "Globalization, Technology, and International Competitiveness" at the 2006 Conference of the Academy of International Business (AIB), Southwest Chapter in Oklahoma, City, March 1-3. In addition, Moskowitz served as a session chair on "Issues in Business Education" and as a panelist for two other sessions.

## In the Media

Online links to news stories are available at <http://www.csbsju.edu/news/>

The SJU Third Annual Conference on the College Male was profiled by

The University of The West Indies.

**Janet McNew**, former CSB/SJU professor of English and department chair, was named provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of Tampa.

*The Saint John's Bible* was featured in a March 4 *Washington Post* article, "Drawing on the Past for New Bible."

Saint John's Abbey was featured on a March 3 WCCO-TV 10 p.m. news story, "Finding Minnesota: Saint Buried In Collegeville."

CSB/SJU Fine Arts Programming performance was mentioned in a Feb. 26 *New York Times* dance review, "Playful, Intimate Encounters, With Something More Serious."

CSB/SJU Associate Professor of Sociology Richard Albares, CSB/SJU Professor of Psychology Richard Wielkiewicz, SJU Senior Nick Rud and CSB Sophomore Melissa Kampa were quoted in Feb. 26 *St. Cloud Times* articles, "Breaking those bad habits."

CSB sophomore Maya Main was featured in a Feb. 17 *Asian American Press* article, "Adoptee finds mother while on school trip."

## The Welcome Mat

*We welcome the following to the CSB/SJU community:*

Tina Molacek, IT Services  
Neil Welman, Education  
Peg Margaret Klingel, Education  
Robin Kremer, Education  
Daniel DeMars, Business Office  
Adrian Wijasa, IT Services

## Farewell to Friends

Casey Breen, Institutional Advancement

## *A Message from the Presidents*

There has been a great deal of media attention in the past months about Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) and concerns about a potential pandemic. It is important to remember that Avian Flu is a disease of birds and, in its current state, not transferable human to human. Concerned individuals should review the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Web site about Avian Flu at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index.htm>.

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University have been following developments and tracking recommendations about Avian Flu from local and national public health resources. There have been no reported cases of Avian Flu in humans in the United States. There are currently no restrictions for travel, and plans for CSB/SJU study abroad and Benedictine Center for Lifelong Learning (BCLL) trips remain unchanged.

We are committed to the safety of all students and employees. The CSB/SJU Joint Office of Environmental Health and Safety, along with a committee appointed specifically to consider the Avian Flu issue, are examining all procedures within our existing emergency management plans to assure that they are comprehensive, current and consistent.

We recognize that an important element in a response to any emergency is *communication*. Sharing accurate and timely information with the CSB/SJU communities is, and will continue to be a very high priority in our emergency management plans.

For your information, CSB/SJU has created a Web site at <http://www.csbsju.edu/ehs/news/Avian%20Influenza.htm>. This Web site will be a clearinghouse for general information about Avian Flu as well as a valuable resource for information related to CSB/SJU's preparations related to Avian Flu. Additional information will be communicated to the campus communities and posted on this Web site, when available.



MaryAnn Baenninger  
President, College of Saint Benedict



Dietrich Reinhart, OSB  
President, Saint John's University

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## *Love Yourself Body and Soul*

Jessie Mader, CSB Health Advocate

In this hectic world of ours, how much time do we spend doing something for ourselves? We're frantic with careers, families, friends and everything that goes with that. Here is a challenge -- make time for ourselves this week! Some suggestions:

Exercise. Why do we feel so good after exercising? Endorphins, our bodies' natural opiates, block pain and make us feel euphoric.

Take a hot bath. Not one of those, "I only have 10 minutes to get ready" in and out baths. Put on some tunes, hop in and spend some time in there with a relaxing bath gel.

One Night Vacation. Take a night off and watch a movie. Pop some popcorn, grab a blanket and a favorite movie. It's a wonderful way to relax and reenergize.

Crayons (or other kid-type diversion). Buy a coloring book and crayons. Work a jigsaw puzzle. Jump rope. It's a short break, but it relaxes and improves focus better when returning to work.

Take up a hobby — scrapbooking, cooking, guitar, writing, something creative that allows escape from the day's routine. When was the last time we read a book for fun?

Eat healthy foods. Leafy greens (and other sources of folic acid) are nature's anti-depressants. Eating bananas might prevent us from "going bananas." Bananas contain tryptophan which creates the happiness hormone, serotonin, and also are packed with potassium which can reduce stress.

Attitude of gratitude. At the end of the day, go over everything that went well; don't dwell on the negative. Think of things for which we are thankful.

Smile! If all else fails, fake it. Act like we are having a wonderful day. After awhile, we'll believe it.

Attend Wellness Fest March 29 in the HCC. Many local businesses will have interactive booths and information on various health topics. If nothing else, stop by for a free massage. It's an afternoon designed to help our body and soul.

*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. 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>*