

Saint Benedict's

MAGAZINE

Spring 2009



Lucky 7

Bennies share their family matters



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- Rule of Saint Benedict

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Happy Mother's Day

It has been almost 100 years since President Woodrow Wilson declared the first official national Mother's Day on May 9, 1914. The College of Saint Benedict was only a year old. At the time, the day was for American citizens to honor mothers whose sons had died in war. Prior to that, activists Ann Jarvis and Julia Ward Howe had attempted to establish a Mother's Day of sorts during and after the Civil War. Ann tried to rally mothers to work for better sanitary conditions and to heal neighborhoods following the war. Julia wrote a Mother's Day Proclamation calling for peace and disarmament.

Since then, Mother's Day has become a day with one simple purpose: to honor those who have been mothers to us, whether they are our own moms or others dear to our hearts.

The choice to become a mom is one that all of our graduates face. As women, this is only one of the many

roles they must reflect on in their lives. In addition, they face questions about being a spouse, a child of aging parents, a friend, a coworker, a change agent, and a philanthropist, among other things. While the times have definitely changed, our graduates have also had to face chipping away -- or outright blasting through -- glass ceilings in a number of fields.

The job of Saint Ben's is to prepare our women to make life choices that are appropriate for them. They will always be confronted with societal norms, expectations of their gender, family pressures, pop culture stereotypes, their value systems, and their personal vision of self. Our task is to provide the tools for our graduates, so they are selecting the life they want and not settling for what they are told they should have.

In this issue of *Saint Benedict's* magazine, we hear from four alumnae who've all made very different choices for themselves and their families. And, their

contributors



Shaina Anderson '09 graduates this month with a

double major in Communication and English. She studied abroad on the Roman-Greco program and slept on a rock in Cinque Terre, Italy. Her favorite movie is *Madagascar*, and friends are convinced the only reason Shaina wants to have kids someday is so she has an excuse to see animated movies. Not far from the truth, she admits. After graduation, Shaina's dream is to work in marketing and communications and is willing to work wherever the wind blows.



Sam Cook is the father of Emily '06 and Grant '12. He is outdoors writer

and columnist at the *Duluth News-Tribune* in Duluth, Minn., and has authored six books. Cook is a Kansas native, Minnesota transplant, who fell in love with the North country after a Boy Scout adventure to the Boundary Waters during high school. Cook resides in Duluth with his wife of 38 years, Phyllis, two cats, and his hunting companion, Lucy, a yellow Labrador retriever.

stories span several decades, starting with alumna Katherine Luverne O'Rourke Brinkman, who graduated from Saint Ben's in 1939 when she was only 19.

The choices we make as women are never easy. I remember completing two years of college, then taking a break to have and raise children. While my children were still very young, I resumed my dream of having a college education, and I didn't let that dream go. In fact, I went straight through to receive my baccalaureate and doctoral degrees before becoming a professor of psychology. Many of those years, I was on autopilot trying to balance being a good mother and a good student. When I see my children now with their children, I'm confident we approached our life in the right way. I know it was right because it worked for us, not because I was told the way we should do it. And, I'm so proud that I have the experience and credentials to lead this amazing institution that is Saint Ben's.

When we choose our paths for the right reasons -- to be true to ourselves -- then our decisions are worthwhile even if they may seem a little hectic at the time.

In this issue, I'd also like to call your attention to the wonderful men who honor our Bennies' stories. Contributors include a father of a Bennie, a husband of a Bennie, and an SJU alumnus.

For this "Mother's Day" issue of *Saint Benedict's* magazine, we celebrate whatever 'maternal instinct' our graduates have. I'm confident they have and will continue to put their instincts to good use as moms, as a mother to the world, as a mother of invention, or however they see fit.



Megan Hedstrom '09 graduates with a major in Communication and

minor in Management. Originally from New Prague, Minn., Megan lives with four crazy roommates in the "asylum" in St. Joe. Megan studied in London and traveled to nine other European countries. In her spare time, Megan enjoys spending time with friends and her Johnnie boyfriend, playing basketball, working out, eating, and just having fun. After graduation, Megan hopes to get a great job in marketing and communications and is dreading when loan grace period time is up.



John Rosengren '86 has put his English major to use as a freelance

writer. His articles have appeared in more than 100 publications ranging from *Sports Illustrated* to *Reader's Digest*. The former *Record* editor has also written six books. The most recent, "Hammerin' Hank, George Almighty and the Say Hey Kid: The Year that Changed Baseball Forever" has a really bad title but was a 2008 CASEY Award finalist. John currently lives with his wife, Maria, and their two children in Minneapolis.



Angie Schmitz '09 graduates this month with a major in Communication

and a minor in Psychology. Angie grew up in Brewster, Minn., a small town of 500 in southwest Minnesota. She enjoys reading, watching movies, and spending time with her friends and family. While at Saint Ben's, she wrote for *The Record*, went to London for May term, and interned for the St. Cloud Hospital and Saint Ben's Institutional Advancement. Angie hopes to work in public relations after graduation.

Live at the Forum

In February, a crowd at Minnesota Public Radio's UBS Forum in Saint Paul examined the role of poetry as a form of social protest and as a means of calling for peace and justice.

"Peace, Poetry and Politics" was sponsored by the Literary Arts Institute of the College of Saint Benedict and the Eugene McCarthy Center for Public Policy at CSB/SJU. The panel discussion featured noted writers Brenda Hillman, Nick Flynn, and Fred Marchant. Kate Moos '75, senior producer of the Peabody-award winning *Speaking of Faith*, moderated the event.



CSB/SJU adopt a genome

Students in science and math classes will "adopt" a bacterial genome as part of a nationwide program designed to spark new interest in research.

CSB and SJU were among 21 teams selected nationwide to collaborate in The Undergraduate Research Program in Microbial Genome Annotation. "We had a higher than expected response rate to the call for applications, making the selection process extremely difficult," said Cheryl A. Kerfeld, director of the Education Department at the U.S. Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute (JGI), which administers the program.

Saint Ben's and Saint John's were chosen because of their demonstrated potential to enrich the curriculum with the research, Kerfeld said. "We believe their approach has the potential to contribute to the national model for undergraduate research that we are collectively developing," she said.

Barbara May, assistant professor of biology, and Associate Professor of Mathematics Jennifer Galovich, initiated the application and attended a workshop to learn more about the program.

"This is very exciting news!" May said. "We will be working with the genome in several biology courses, as well as in math and computer science courses."

The JGI established an Education Department with the vision that bioinformatics and genome analysis offer new ways to teach curricular standards in the sciences. "The organism ideally will provide a unifying thread for concepts across the life sciences curriculum," said Kerfeld, who is also a professor of plant microbial biology at the University of California, Berkeley. "Prospects are high that students will make scientific discoveries," she said. "All bacterial genomes are full of novelties; moreover, the organisms selected for 'adoption' are relatively unusual and from poorly investigated parts of the tree of life, increasing the likelihood for interesting results in the lab.

"Involving students in a calibrated, stepwise way provides a research-based approach to teaching fundamental concepts in the life science curriculum. And, with the dawning of the era of genomic medicine, when one's genome sequence is part of their medical record, understanding genomics and bioinformatics is increasingly important for students intent on many fields, including nursing and medicine, law, education and even business.

"We think that Barb, her colleagues, and the CSB and SJU students will help to set the standard for 21st century life sciences education," Kerfeld said.

Bennies Give Back to Bennies through Student Philanthropy Fund

by Megan Hedstrom '09

Senior women at the College of Saint Benedict have designed a new way to give back to their school and community in the form of the Student Philanthropy Fund.

The fund is a student-led initiative where graduating seniors raise money to fund future grants for students who want to address issues of social justice and leadership development. An advisory board for the fund was set up to fundraise, market the fund to current students, review grants and get students to understand and get involved in philanthropy. The advisory board is working hard to get out their “Bennies to Bennies” message stressing the importance of giving back.

The number of projects funded each year depends on the amount of money raised by graduating seniors. In its first year, nine projects were submitted for consideration. Two received grants of \$1,000 from the class of 2008. These projects include the Micro-Lending Documentary Project proposed by Andrea Carrow '09 and Ashleigh Leitch '09 and Brush & Floss proposed by Megan Kack '10 and Lindsay Hansen '10.

The Micro-Lending Project team of CSB/SJU students made an educational documentary on the micro-lending process in Chile. “Our goal (with the project) is to not only educate the campus community about micro-lending, but to inspire action,” Andrea said. “We

are aiming to raise awareness and encourage participation.”

Megan and Lindsay also value the fund. Their project, Brush & Floss, provides dental supply kits that contain supplies for one year to children and adults who do not receive proper oral hygiene instruction. These kits were given out during presentations that teach the benefits of oral health to after-school programs. The kits also are distributed to food shelves throughout the state.

“We are in this together.”

- Mary Davis Donahue '54

“The Student Philanthropy Fund is giving students the opportunity to explore opportunities that otherwise would go unexplored,” Megan said. “It provides for the monetary needs to put a plan into action and allows for a pay-it-forward type message.”

Alumnae Engagement

The Student Philanthropy Fund caught the attention of alumnae.

Mary Davis Donahue '54, Joyce Statz '69, and Gigi Fourre Schumacher '74 came forward to serve as matching donors for the 2009 fund. Their donations will be used to match \$20.09 to the Student Philanthropy fund every time a graduating student gives \$20.09.

“I’m very interested in helping

CSB women follow that community-concern instinct and get started as philanthropists early in their lives” Joyce said. She hopes that the fund “inspires graduating CSB students to think about their blessings and how they can be a blessing to others – now as they graduate, and throughout their lives.”

“It is good for women to help women. Life is not a one-way street,” Mary said. “We all need to support one another. This is so evident now with our economy in trouble. Philanthropy is caring about your fellow person. We are in this together.”

The 2009 campaign for the Student Philanthropy Fund is underway now as seniors prepare to graduate this month. The goal for this campaign is 100 percent participation of the current seniors placing Saint Ben’s among national leaders in student philanthropy.

For more on the fund, log on to www.benniesgiveback.com.



My name is Sheff Otis, and I'm 31. I've worked as a film location scout in Alaska, guest-starred on a Hollywood sitcom, managed a warehouse, and taught high school kids with behavioral and emotional disorders. Presently, I'm a carpenter and job developer for a "green" building contractor.

More important, I've been married for seven years, and my wife, Deirdre Chione McCarrell Otis '00, and I have seven children under 8. No multiples. No kidding.

While many of our classmates spent their 20s soul-searching and career building, D and I dove right in, mindful that our timing would never be right, we'd never have enough money, and we'd never be content enough in our jobs to be perfect parents. We just knew that we wanted a big, obstreperous family filled with love and chaos.

D was an only child. At 9, she decided she wanted to run an orphanage, or at least surround herself with a "large Italian family." She always sought work relating to kids—a nanny, a preschool teacher, a volunteer in women's shelters.

I grew up with a much younger brother, playing protector and Pied Piper to his friends. I was the boy who made money baby-sitting rather than mowing lawns.

When D and I met we were both living at home, recharging our batteries after stints in Brooklyn

and Los Angeles respectively. Our moms knew each other, and when my mom ran into D one day the gears were set in motion. On our first date, D told me about her dream to have a mess of kids and adopt a mess more. I instantly thought she was the coolest person, and a bit of a loon. We were married within a year.

We never exactly agreed on a number. I wanted some; she wanted 38. Over a span of five years and two trips to Russia, we adopted two boys—James Satchel and John-Luke Yuri—and a girl, Ann Claudia. On the heels of each trip, we had a "bio" baby, boys Michael McCarrell and Nathaniel Tyler. In a failed attempt to give Annie a sister, we added Mark Chappell. Then we tried again, and girl Daisy Eleanor was born, tiny and wispy as a dandelion seed.

On this particular morning, six cereal bowls with mismatched cups are lined up on the counter. Five kids slurp sleepily while big brother Satchel, 8, sits watching TV like a zombie in the other room.

D carries Daisy in a sling as she throws about 10 pounds of ground turkey into a pot. She cooks by feel, never using cookbooks, because most recipes don't serve 54. That is, six meat loaves, one for tonight and five to freeze, each feeding nine people at a sitting.



for the
Love

In a week, our family might consume eight gallons of milk, seven loaves of bread, a tub of peanut butter, two giant hams, and 20 pots of coffee. We also generate about 10 loads of laundry, 14 bags of trash, and eight bags of recycling.

At church, everyone knows us. People offer smiles and handshakes as we struggle to find a pew with adequate acreage. Things go smoothly for the first 10 minutes. Then little bodies start to jiggle

For some funny insight into a typical day at the Otis household, -- including the "Moist"



of Chaos

by SHEFF OTIS

We never exactly agreed on a number. I wanted some; she wanted 38.

spaces like rogue waves threatening to swallow my children in their undertow. Deirdre has made her proverbial “lemonade” by selling as much of our laundry as possible on E-bay. That’s right. In her infinite resourcefulness, D has set up a thriving E-bay store to recycle quality clothing that our kids have outgrown, much of which came through generous hand-me-downs of friends, family members, and the occasional pilgrim-like stranger. Nowadays, D adds inventory by picking through thrift stores, outlets, and, well, E-bay. She passionately loves taking care of kids clothing and preparing “lots” for photo displays. The store has not only given her vast product knowledge and customer service chops, but also has paid for shoes and Catholic school tuition. I sometimes think D chose not to run a major corporation because it would’ve been too easy.

We settle in for Friday movie night. The kids have chosen *Barbie and the Nutcracker*, which is strangely riveting. The magical TV box transports me to Never-Never Land as two little heads settle on my chest and start to drool through my shirt. D, who has two droolers of her own, gets caught up in the moment. “Maybe one more,” she whispers to me.

I choke on my popcorn.

and twerp. “Ouch!” Johnny cries. A few heads turn. “Mine!” hisses Mickey, grabbing a coloring book out of Johnny’s hand. Mark is conspicuously silent. Then he spews out four crayons that he’s chewed to paste. As Daisy begins to cry, the priest sweeps her up and tucks her under his arm without breaking from his sermon. Six voices cry out, “Hey, that’s my sister!” The parish erupts in laughter.

One night after work, I pull into the driveway. The door opens, and Johnny, Annie, and Mark poke their heads out from a gigantic pile of boxes, maybe 96 of them. In succession, the kids scream

“Hi, Dad!”

“What the heck is that?” I ask, nodding toward the boxes. D enters, handing me a cup of coffee and looking supernaturally fresh. “I got a great deal online for paper towels and hypoallergenic detergent,” she cheerfully explains.

D does this. She hunts down deals online for detergent, paper towels, diapers, underwear, taco shells, light bulbs, and any number of other unglamorous things that she finds delightful.

The least glamorous (and most Sysiphaen) thing in our house that D has found a way to love is laundry--heaps of laundry that crash through bedrooms and play

phenomena of creams and jellies in library books -- check out their website www.sevensidekicks.com

so happy together

by John Rosengren '86



Ann Ruff '77 grew up in a family of eight kids in the Sixties and figured she would one day marry and have a large brood of her own children -- at least, that was the road map she thought good Catholic girls followed. But that's not the path Ann chose.

Ann, 54, has been married 21 years, has decided not to have children, and has no regrets.

The decision not to have children did not come easily. In the early days of their marriage, Ann and her husband, John Cooper, spent long walks around Lake Harriet in Minneapolis discussing their family plans. Friends starting their own families told the couple they would be good parents. Ann and John tried to imagine themselves changing diapers, reading bedtime stories and attending school conferences. But Ann never felt the urge to have her own children. "You had it easy," Ann told one of her friends. "You knew you wanted to have kids. You didn't have to think about it."

Ann had long thought her mom believed she should have a houseful of children. Talking to her one day, Ann asked, "What would you think if John and I didn't have kids?"

Her mom's answer surprised her. "I think you're happy the way you are."

Ann realized they were. They ate dinner together uninterrupted, took long bike rides without pulling a Burley, and traveled without diaper bags. Her mother's blessing made it easier for Ann to follow her heart.

Ann's 40th birthday prompted her to take stock of her life. The implications of choices she had made in her 20s and 30s started to sink in. Knowing she would not

be a mother, she asked herself how she would live with purpose. She sought to define her vocation.

Once again, her mom provided direction, this time with a quote from author Louise Erdrich about the way women without their own children can be special to other people's children. Ann, who was already close to her 23 nieces and nephews, six godchildren, and eleven great-nieces and nephews, devoted herself to being a special person to them. She enjoys her time with them and has set up a college fund to help pay for their education. In addition, Ann set up a scholarship fund at Saint Ben's. "Since I had no kids of my own to put through school," she said, "I thought, 'why not?'"

She also discerned that her vocation included work, volunteering and relationships. Currently, she is the vice president of development at CommonBond Communities, the largest nonprofit provider of affordable housing in the Upper Midwest. She has volunteered her talents at nonprofit organizations such as Grace House, Chrysalis Center for Women, and Tubman. She also devoted herself to her marriage, family of origin and friendships. "I want to make my community better, to be a good spouse, a good friend, and to be a good daughter," she says. "I have had the luxury of being able to spend more time with my mom than my siblings when they were busy with small children."

Not having children of her own, she frequently bumps into society's misconceptions. People assume she and her husband don't have children because of infertility

issues, which isn't the case. Well-intentioned friends have told her, "You don't know what you're missing," though she's certain, "I don't miss hockey tournaments, sleepless nights and trips to the pediatrician."

One time when she was getting her hair cut, the stylist asked Ann if she had children. No, Ann said. The stylist asked if she had pets. No, again.

The stylist asked in surprise. "What do you do?"

Ann laughed. "I told her that I have a fabulous spouse, a large family and a big job. I also keep up with a lot of friends."

She travels with them, participates in a book club and works out to stay fit. She has also taken three cycling trips in the U.S. and Europe recently with her husband.

Sometimes people ask Ann, "Do you have a family?"

"It's a funny question," she says. "Everybody has a family. What they're asking is, 'Do you have children?' as though children create a family."

If Ann had the chance to relive her life, she would do it just as she has--sans kids. So would her husband. Her brothers and sisters and their spouses embrace Ann and her husband's decision. "They understand that I have a different role in the family, and they love that I can be with their kids," Ann says.

Ann has also taught them that a family can be one with eight children or two adults. "Families come in all kinds," she says. "There's not one kind of family or one kind of way to make a family."

"It's a funny question," Ann says when people ask if she has a family.

"Everybody has a family. What they're asking is,

'Do you have children?' as though children create a family."



a second chance at childhood

by Sam Cook

The first summer they were married, Anne Schepers Rogotzke '82 and Dave Rogotzke '82 lived in a tent in the commercial fishing hamlet of Dillingham, Alaska. Anne worked in a cannery. Dave worked on a fishing boat netting salmon. In a real sense, the choice they made that first year of their marriage has defined the path they have followed for the past 25 years.



Katie Rogotzke (left) and her dad, Dave Rogotzke, of Duluth take a momentary break while commercial fishing for salmon on Bristol Bay off the coast of Alaska. Dave has been commercial fishing every summer in Alaska since 1980. He works his fishing around being a stay-at-home father and the schedule of his wife, Anne Rogotzke (above), who is an ob-gyn physician in Duluth.

They settled in Duluth, Minn., in 1992 and have raised three children there, but along the way they have been open to non-traditional options as a family.

After that first year in Alaska, Anne went on to complete medical school and an ob-gyn residency in Minnesota. Dave did some substitute teaching early on, then settled in as a stay-at-home dad. But he has always spent June and July commercial fishing in Alaska, and in 2000 started a maple syruping business. Now he has 5,000 taps in mature maples on the family's land outside of Duluth.

He markets his salmon and syrup, under the name Simple Gifts Syrup and Salmon, to individuals and restaurants from Duluth to Minne-

apolis/St. Paul. He said. "It felt strange for me to stay at home. Then my dad said, 'You need someone to take care of the kids. If Anne's working, it might be best for the kids to have you at home.' For my dad to have said that in the early 1980s was really something."

So, Dave did. The Rogotzkes' lifestyle had evolved by the time they moved to Duluth in 1992, where Anne began a very successful ob-gyn practice at the Duluth Clinic. She is often on call in the evenings and can't be home every night, but the family has made it work.

"The challenge is always balance," Anne says. "Sometimes the balance is there, and sometimes it isn't. But it's been a real good fit for us."

Dave said staying at home with

when Dave was fishing.

"I look at the kids, and they're great people," Anne said. "I think they had a great childhood, and that's what we hoped for."

Dave has kept a daily journal since 1989, and Anne values that detailed record of the child-rearing years. She was looking through it before Leah's high school graduation last year.

"Sometimes, it was like, 'Where was I?' It was kind of bittersweet," she said. "But I always felt a part of my children's lives. My barometer was that they always expected me to be there. It wasn't a special thing if I showed up."

Once all their children are away from home, Anne and Dave can see their lives changing.

"There would be flour all over the floor," Dave said. "But, we had fresh bread for Annie when she came home from work."

apolis/St. Paul.

"I think we've been open to things," Anne says. "We've allowed each other to do non-traditional things and not worry about how it's going to turn out. Sometimes it's scary, and you think, 'What the heck have we done?'"

Their children, two girls and a boy, are now 16 to 21 years old. In the early years, Dave was substitute teaching while Anne was in medical school. That became difficult when their second daughter was born. Daycare and the assistance of relatives seemed to become too complicated. While Anne's medical training took top priority, Dave wasn't sure he wanted to stay home with the kids.

"I needed some approval," he

his kids has given him a "rich life."

"I've had a second chance at childhood, to be with my kids and see life through their eyes," he said.

He remembers vividly learning to bake bread.

"It's one of those little joys," he said. "There would be flour all over the floor. We had fresh bread for Annie when she came home from work, and the kids had helped."

Two of the Rogotzkes' children – Katie, 21, and Leah, 19 – have gone to Alaska and worked on Dave's boat as deck hands. Matt, 16, is a sophomore in high school.

When the kids were younger, Anne would try to schedule more time off when Dave was fishing in Alaska. At times, the family hired a nanny or enlisted relatives to help

"We do look forward to simplifying," Anne said, "to being in a smaller place."

They built a "sugar house" in their maple woods to house the large evaporator Dave uses in making syrup.

"We do have the sugar house, which would be big enough for both syruping and living," he said.

For her part, Anne may start spending more time away from home – and the office.

"As the kids move away, I may be away for longer periods to do some international medicine," she said. "That's what I'd hope to do."

And when she and Dave are both at home, you can bet there will be salmon for supper.



someone



In the early 1950s, having five children may not have seemed like a large family to most people in Kathryn Luverne O'Rourke Brinkman's Catholic surroundings. But to Kay '39, raising five children was a new beginning in her life.

Kay's husband, Ted, passed away in 1951. They had four children under the age of five and one on the way.

Shortly following her husband's death, Kay knew that she would have to make changes in order to support her young family.

"The first year was so busy that I had really no time to feel sorry for my family or myself," she said.

While she had been staying home to raise her children, her teacher's license expired. She renewed it, and returned to teaching and working as a librarian in Eden Valley, Minn.

Between her income as a teacher and the social security she received, she was able to pay someone to care

for her children during the day. "I got wonderful help from many of my neighbors," she said. "People were friends, and they were supportive. In a small town that's what you found."

While Kay was trying to be strong for her family, it was a difficult time for her personally. She was forced to make life-changing decisions on her own. "I found I was alone to make final decisions on buying a house, finding a job, moving back with my parents, and building a home."

She also juggled the demands of parenting, working, and going to school. During the summer of 1955, Kay took a summer class to get her minor in library services. The class curriculum included her reading 250 books. "Usually I was home by noon, but there were clothes to wash, food to fry, and all those books to read," Kay remembers. "Some days I packed the kids up, made sandwiches, put



to lean on

by Angela Schmitz '09

in cookies and juice and off to the beach we went. I read books while the kids swam. I never had to worry about Ted (the youngest) because he was afraid to go farther out than his waist. Most of the time he played on the beach near me.”

Despite the challenges of being a single mother of five, Kay never remarried. The opportunity did present itself at one point. She was engaged for a short time, but felt that it was not the right decision for her family. “I began to feel caught between my kids and him,” she said. “I decided to give the ring back.”

Kay also decided to go back to school to better support her family. She had a degree in history from Saint Ben’s and decided to work on her Master’s part-time at the University of Minnesota. She moved her family to the Twin Cities suburb of Roseville. Her small-town friends were there to help her with this important change in her

life once again.

The change in location was not easy on everyone in the family, Kay admits. “When I decided to move to the Twin Cities, one of my children was in senior high, and that made it hard on him because he didn’t know anyone. The rest were younger, and it was easier for them to get acquainted.”

After moving and attending school, Kay worked as a librarian for the Roseville School District. The changes in her life at this time became very challenging for her.

“A single mother moving to a new location with five kids is not only a big change, but it is difficult to put into words,” she wrote in her autobiography. “There was an endless stream of daily decisions to make.”

Kay said the experience and knowledge she gained while attending Saint Ben’s helped her through some of the more difficult times

and led her to find the rewards in her life.

“Saint Ben’s taught a lot on social justice and how to live,” Kay said. “My education from Saint Ben’s has been my lifeline to raise my children.”

On the eve of 90 years old, Kay has 11 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and a few on the way. She also has her five children who keep her young.

“I am amazed at the difference among them. Each one seemed to take on a different role,” she said. “The organized Mary, the readers and cooks -- Pat and Tom, the challenger and idea person Joe and the affable Ted make up this Brinkman clan.”

Although they are all different, Kay’s children have one quality in common, she says. “They have closeness as a family and are always there when someone needs help.”

“The first year was so busy that I had really no time to feel sorry for my family or myself,” Kay said.





WINNING *team*

Story by Shaina Anderson '09
Photo by Alexander Johnson '09



In 1985, Mike Durbin accepted a position as head basketball coach at Wittenberg University in Ohio. After racking up a less-than-stellar 4-22 record, Mike said, “I thought I’d never coach again.”

Luckily, that wasn’t the case.

Fast forward 24 years.

Blazer Basketball Coach Mike Durbin now holds the record for most wins in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) by a women’s basketball coach and holds the record for most overall wins in the MIAC. He’s been named NCAA Division III National Coach of the Year twice.

And, he won his 500th game coaching the Blazer basketball team.

The Blazers beat Macalester College on December 10, 2008, in Clemons Field House, 66-61. In the closing seconds, the crowd chanted, “Durbin, Durbin,” and held up signs. Mike was then doused with confetti and enjoyed cake with players and the crowd.

“That was a cool moment,” he said. “I feel really good the win happened here at home.”

On January 10 against Concordia College, Mike and assistant coach Denny Johnson had their 500th win as a coaching duo. They just finished their 23rd season coaching together. Both believe that their relationship contributes to the success of the team.

“There is no question,” Denny said. “I believe one of the reasons for our success is the stability of our coaching staff.”

Mike and Denny have lunch together almost every day and are good friends. “Denny helps me to see the other side of things,” Mike

said. “We have a good balance.”

Denny jokes, “We’re like a married couple.” Mike’s wife of 19 years, Teri, agrees. “They know what the other is thinking before the other person does! They can finish each other’s sentences.”

Mike grew up with seven sisters. He has a daughter at home. He coaches at an all-women’s college. When asked about how this has influenced him in his current position, Mike said, “I’ve been training for this all my life.”

Mike attended Kent State with a plan to go into sports broadcasting. Toward the end of college, he started to recognize opportunities to coach, and the landscape changed so that he could. “High schools were hiring more coaches that weren’t already part of the school system because teachers were less interested in coaching,” he said.

After graduating in 1981, Mike took a job as Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball coach at East Knox High School in Howard, Ohio, and was the assistant basketball coach at Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

Mike went on to Wittenberg University, where he was Head Basketball Coach and the Women’s Sports Information Director. His recruiting work -- and not his record -- is what helped him land the coaching job at Saint Ben’s.

Mike started at Saint Ben’s and thought he would give it a shot. He met his wife, Teri, the first night he was in town in 1986. He fell in love with Saint Ben’s and the people here and said the values of the community were very similar to those of his hometown. As for the basketball team, he said, “you start

building a program, and you don’t want to leave.”

Basketball isn’t just Mike’s job – it’s his passion. Carol Howe-Veenstra, Director of Athletics, said “Mike is always working to better himself and the program. He believes that an individual win is a team win, and a team win is an individual win. He has such an energy and drive for success.”

Teri said, “He loves the strategy of the game and watching it all unfold. I’ll find plays written on the backs of carbon copies of checks all summer. He truly loves all things basketball.”

So, is it hard for Mike to restrain his inner coach while watching his daughter Morgan play basketball?

“No,” he said. “At her age, sports need to be fun. I don’t want her to think her life’s greatest ambition is to be a great basketball player.”

Ariel Tauer ’09, a Blazer basketball player, said Mike wants his players to have fun, too. “He understands basketball is one part of our lives,” she said. “Although he has high expectations, he also makes sure we are taking care of ourselves and learning to balance a variety of commitments.”

Mike said he enjoys all parts of coaching, “My job is different from any other walk of life – you know whether or not you’re successful within an hour and a half.”

Recruiting is another one of his favorite parts about coaching. “I believe there is something special about this institution and the tradition we have,” he said. When that part gets boring, I think it will be time to move on.”

Hopefully, that won’t be any time soon.

ALUMNAE MILESTONES

For complete news and notes from classmates, log on to www.csbsju.edu/csbalum/news



Space permitting, the class notes section will contain milestones or professional updates. Marriages, births and deaths will get printed if they have taken place in the past 12 months from the date of the magazine.

For a full version of class notes, please check www.csbsju.edu/csbalum/classpages

For current updates from classmates and to post your notes go to the online community: www.csbsju.edu/csbalum/community

1968

Hon. Elizabeth Hayden was named by Minnesota's highest court to preside over Rep. Norm Coleman's case to overturn Dem. Al Franken's 225-vote advantage following a recount.

1974 **Reunion! June 26 to 28**

Mary Rose Holbach Mittelstadt opened a shop on Etsy selling jewelry, stained glass and other more. She is a certified Precious Metal Clay artisan. Visit DesignAndBeMary.etsy.com!

Rebecca Hermes Hafner-Fogarty, MD, MBA was promoted to Chief Clinical Officer for MinuteClinic.

1975

Sara Boyle Trautner was the star, producer and co-writer of *My War: From Bismarck to Britain and Back*.

1976

Joanne Sunquist, CIO at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, was elected by the Board of Trustees to serve as Chair in 2009.

Janie Becker celebrates the release of her new CD "Forever Friends".

1978

After more than four decades, veteran educator **Damaris Thompson** is bidding farewell to the profession that has been more than simply a job, but rather a life-long passion.

Linda St. Ores, Saint Paul human rights specialist, started what is now the Twin Cities Construction Coalition for Diversity.

1980

Erin McKee Merrigan was part of a Fox 9 Investigative report about families unable to un-

seal the secrets of their family tree. The report addressed these questions and others.

1981

Jill Warner accepted the pastorship at Plymouth United Church of Christ in Aberdeen, SD.

Diane Gerdtz Hovey wrote a new book "Princess Sophia's Gifts."

Debra Greene embarked on a national book tour to promote *Endless Energy: A Simple Guide to Energy Health*. In addition to book signings, she will be presenting at three major conferences on Energy Psychology, Subtle Energies and Energy Medicine, and Energy Kinesiology. www.DebraGreene.com.

Beth Mahowald Ecker was promoted to Master Scheduler at Conwed Global Netting Solutions. She has been with them for 13 years.

1982

Lori Lowe Hume has been selected as a "Top Women in Finance" award recipient by Finance and Commerce newspaper.

Mary Cullen Yeager has been elected Chair of the William Mitchell College of Law Board. She has served on William Mitchell's board of trustees since 2002.

1983

Ann Lenczewski is leading the States Tax Committee. The committee will play a role in solving the state's \$5.27 billion budget deficit.

Renee Wall Rongen an inspirational and humorous keynote speaker joins Catherine Ryan Hyde as an additional speaking resource and spokesperson for the Pay It Forward Foundation.

1985

Diana Traxler Widmer was voted "Teacher of the Year." She teaches at Union Cross Elementary in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

1987

Julie Amireault MacRae is a special educator and English teacher at an urban high school in southeastern Massachusetts. She has a Masters in Education with advanced credits towards administration. She volunteers as an educational surrogate parent at an area nursing home and is a single parent of two teenaged girls.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty appointed **Karen**

A. Janisch to a Fourth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in Hennepin County.

1988

Columbia Heights Public Schools has named **Mary Bussman** the new principal of Central Middle School (CMS).

1989 **Reunion! June 26 to 28**

Kathleen A. Kulus, MD, CentraCare, Women & Children - Pediatrics Clinic, was honored with the Physician of Excellence award. The award is recognition by peers of an exemplary work ethic. Those who nominated her said she goes out of her way for patients and co-workers. She is a skilled listener and in tune with the needs of others.

Kim Ferlaak Motes, a key player in fundraising for Minneapolis arts organizations, will join fast-growing Theater Latté Da.

1990

Holly Holdgraf Baker received a Ph.D. in Education Leadership and Policy Studies from University of Denver on November 20, 2008.

1991

Lisa Szromba recently received the Advising Profession Impact Award from the Wisconsin Academic Advising Association.

1993

Carlson Hotels Worldwide announced that **Heather Glidden Passe** was appointed Vice President of Customer Relationship Management. Passe will lead customer relationship management initiatives to engage customers and develop global marketing programs.

Kirsten DeVries defended her dissertation and will graduate in May 2009 with a Ph.D. in medieval history from Loyola University Chicago.

Glennis Werner-Roseboom was part of the management team for the Olympic team's High Performance Training Center in Beijing.

1996

Amy Woodle Fredin received her MBA in 2001 from St. Cloud State University and finished her PhD in Accounting from the University of Nebraska. Amy recently began teaching at St.

Reunion!
June 26 to 28

Class years ending in "4" and "9"

The national litigation firm Foley & Mansfield, PLLP, named **Heather Holland Neubauer '99** a partner. She works in the Minneapolis office. Heather was also named to the 2009 Rising Stars list by Minnesota Law & Politics. This is her third consecutive year.

Anne Kocik '03 and Brian Ragatz '02 were married December 19, 2008.

Rena Rolfsen '06 married Jake Thomas in December 2008



Cloud State University.

Karen Schmidt has worked on an Indian Reservation in youth ministry since 2001 – teaching grades K-6. She took her final vows in December 2006 and is now Sister Mary Emmanuel.

1997

Amy Fredregill is in the Humphrey Policy Fellows Program at the University of Minnesota. The 10-month program is a non-credit program for adults interested in public affairs leadership. She is also a new Board member for the Minnesota Project, a statewide nonprofit that promotes renewable energy, local foods and sustainable agriculture.

1998

Yuko Taniguchi's debut novel, "The Ocean in the Closet," was among five finalists for the \$10,000 Dayton Literary Peace Prize in fiction.

2001

Beth Hartman made her debut with the Minnesota Opera chorus performing in Charles Gounod's "Faust".

2002

Anne Walters accepted a position as Manager of Individual Philanthropy at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (www.iatp.org).

Tiffany Ogle wrapped up filming an episode of "Made" on MTV.

Monica Haller received a 2008 BUSH Foundation Artist Fellowship.

2003

Kathryn Rothstein Minnich joined Rinke Noonan as an associate attorney. She received her law degree from William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, and practices in the areas of real estate, contracts, general business and economic development.

Laura Herbst Sherburne was a winning contestant on the Price is Right.

2004 Reunion! June 26 to 28

Liana Jacquet-Morrison graduated from Bikram's Yoga College of India in the fall of 2007 and has been traveling the country teaching yoga ever since. In November 2008, she

became the 2nd place regional champion in the 6th annual Bishnu Ghosh Cup Yoga Competition.

Alissa Keene Theis accepted a position at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center where she is a pharmacist doing a 1-year residency with a focus in ambulatory care.

Beth Blonigen received a Master's degree in Irish Studies from the National University of Ireland, Galway. She graduated with honors on November 28, 2008.

Kenna Caughey started Kenna's Cupcake Co. She incorporates everything from miniature coffee cups to puppies on her cupcakes. Kenna's cupcakes was mentioned in *Minneapolis Picks* and *Rachel Ray*.

Andrea Scibbe received a Master of Science in School Counseling degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls on December 20, 2008.

2005

Megan Bjerke graduated with honors from William Mitchell College of Law in May of 2008. Megan passed the North Dakota bar and started as an associate with the Nilles Law Firm in Fargo, North Dakota where she will practice with the Litigation and Insurance Departments.

2006

Claire Hoolihan Philippe received a Master's degree in Public Health in Environmental & Occupational Epidemiology from the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health.

2008

Emily Pearson, a teller at Alliance Bank in St. Paul, was chosen as the Princess of the West Wind for the 2009 St. Paul Winter Carnival. In addition to working at the bank, she is a freelance graphic designer.

From this day forward

(Weddings from June '08 to Jan. '09)

1978 **Theresa Ahles** to Tom Erickson

1991 **Lucinda Meledandri** to Paul Zotta

1996 **Susan Shipley** to James Koberle

1997 **Annette Anderson** to Joel Whitson

1998 **Cathy Isaac** to Peter Lindquist '98

1999 **Becky Martin** to Justin Barnett

2000 **Sarah Welter** to Matthew Michels

2001 **Patty Hobday** to **Ryan Strack '05**

2002 **Jamie Caputa** to Chris Meyers

2002 **Meghan Schumacher** to Michael Aanenson

2002 **Naomi Barrows** to Jason Kirk

2002 **Megan Qvale** to **Dan Stepaniak '01**

2002 **Kathleen Penkala** to Ronald Massmann

2002 **Holly Johnson** to Aaron Lenes

2002 **Jana Viramontes** to **Alan Gaffaney '03**

2002 **Sarah Miller** to Nick Novak

2002 **Sally Popowski** to Ryan Nett

2003 **Maria Devereaux** to Jake Roeller

2003 **Jenny Palubicki** to Michael Reyes

2003 **Dionne Sakry** to Curtis Allan

2003 **Anna Bachman** to Andrew Barter

2003 **Tricia Butler** to Matt Siebke

2004 **Janelle Heitzman** to Matthew Loehlein

2004 **Erin Troutfetter** to **Alex Jude '04**

2004 **Jessica Bares** to **Andrew Hachiya '04**

2004 **Brigitte McKenzie** to **Adam Pettit '04**

2004 **Jill Podgorski** to **Nate Kopetka '04**

2004 **Elisha Mueller** to Thomas Ferraro, Jr.

2004 **Joce Lavelle** to Abutwalib Masasi

2004 **Lindsey Hoffman** to **Adam Sheveland '04**

2004 **Christen Bauerly** to Brent Carron

2004 **Ashley Agarter** to **Matthew Raitor '04**

2004 **Angela Davis** to Francis Revak

2004 **Aimee Cupelli** to **John Schumacher '04**

2005 **Elizabeth Peart** to Nick Wagner

2005 **Kari Ness** to Joseph Glynn

2005 **Angela Haen** to Ari Palczewski

2005 **Danielle Schiffler** to **Adam Benjamin '05**

2005 **Abby Heaps** to Tim Bathke

2005 **Susan Engel** to Adam Schmidt

2006 **Sara Honkomp** to Curtis DeVos

2006 **Krista Schlangen** to Andrew Peach

2006 **Mary Beth McCarney** to **Michael Plucinski '06**

2006 **Claire Hoolihan** to J. Michael Philippe

2006 **Emily Felton** to **Sam Pearson '06**

2006 **Robyn Pierce** to Jared Enyart

2007 **Deborah Williams** to **Michael Conrad '06**

2007 **Vanessa Denardo** to **Kevin McNamara '07**

ALUMNAE MILESTONES

Stacey Gerlach Moe '94 &
David Moe '94 welcomed
Benjamin, Nov. '08



- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 2007 | Jesse Miller to John Brine '07 | | |
| 2007 | Crystal Schoon to Jordan Blommer | 1996 | Girl, Katherine, Jan. '09 |
| 2007 | Nicole Fritz to Christopher Truso '07 | 1996 | Rebecca Gibbons Alfieri & Michael Alfieri , Boy, Michael, June '08 |
| 2007 | Lisa Mo to Kevin Kissinger | 1996 | Deb Schumacher Toren & Chris Toren , Girl, Catherine, Aug. '08 |
| 2007 | Breanna Heintzelman to James Althoff | 1996 | Mara Geis Peterson & Scott Peterson , Boy, Maxwell, Dec. '08 |
| 2008 | Becca Strassburg to Ryan Huss | 1996 | Sue Bjork Rueber & Jeff Rueber , Girl, Astin, Sept. '08 |
| 2008 | Natalie Arel to Nathan Justin '08 | 1996 | Hannah Herzog Letofsky & Ted Letofsky , Girl, Rowan, Dec. '08 |
| | | 1996 | Sara Blaisdell Stilson & Tyler Stilson , Girl, Audrey, Nov. '08 |
| | | 1997 | Kari Malecek Petersen & Jason Petersen , Boy, Nicholas, June '08 |
| | | 1997 | Julie Olsem Ludwig & John Ludwig , Girl, Samantha, Oct. '08 |
| | | 1997 | Rayette Darling Strachan & Troy Strachan , Boy, Gabriel, May '08 |
| | | 1997 | Billie Stotz Kimman & Steven Kimman '96 , Girl, Payton, Nov. '08 |
| | | 1997 | Janel Scholl Lewandowski & Tom Lewandowski , Girl, Lucille, Jan. '08 |
| | | 1997 | Alison Beens VanDeWiele & Ryan VanDeWiele '97 , Girl, Gabrielle, Nov. '08 |
| | | 1997 | Atsuko Kitanaka Schlough & Mark Schlough '93 , Girl, Emma, Dec. '08 |
| | | 1997 | Jenny Lerdahl Koenig & Michael Koenig , Boy, Colton, Jan. '09 |
| | | 1997 | Julie Muyres McBride and Jayme McBride, Boy, Brady, Sept. '08 |
| | | 1997 | Carrie Swanson Kram & Jeffrey Kram '97 , girl, Cecilia, July '08 |
| | | 1998 | Molly Hunstiger Bliss & Robert Bliss , Boy, Andrew, July '08 |
| | | 1998 | Nicole Needham Welle & Andy Welle , Girl, Rachel, Oct. '08 |
| | | 1998 | Jeanette Miranowski Burke & Troy Burke , Boy, Nathaniel, Oct. '08 |
| | | 1998 | Joan Muehlenbein Krueger & Fred Krueger , Boy, Joseph, Aug. '08 |
| | | 1998 | Molly Schiltgen Bonnett & Justin Bonnett '98 , Girl, Madeleine, May '08 |
| | | 1998 | Heidi Trutwin Clasemann & Chad Clasemann '99 , Girl, Eleanor, Nov. '08 |
| | | 1998 | Jennifer Holly Wells & Daniel Wells , Boy, Colin, Oct. '08 |
| | | 1998 | Stephanie Tripp Gholam & Rahib Gholam , Boy, Nicholas, Sept. '08 |
| | | 1998 | Lindsay Gaida Klaverkamp & Brian Klaverkamp , Twins, Heidi & Adam, Sept. '08 |
| 1998 | Chris Birkhead Meyers & Tom Meyers '96 , Girl, River, Oct. '08 | | |
| 1998 | Dawn Czajkowski Sammon & Adam Sammon , Boy, Jack, June '08 | | |
| 1998 | Sara Wartman Dooley & Matthew Dooley , Girl, Claire, Oct. '08 | | |
| 1998 | Monica Kiernan Marsh & Kirk Marsh , Boy, Kiernan, Aug. '08 | | |
| 1999 | Shannon Erikson Martenson & George Martenson '98 , Girl, Noelle, Sept. '08 | | |
| 1999 | Sarah Athman Thompson & Chris Thompson '99 , Boy, Samuel, Sep. '08 | | |
| 1999 | Terra Pilcher Prust & Reed Prust , Boy, Ryne, Sept. '08 | | |
| 1999 | Shannon Muchlinski Tempel & Ben Tempel '99 , Girl, Rebecca, May '08 | | |
| 1999 | Danielle Widmer Wangsness & Corey Wangsness , Girl, Ava, Nov. '08 | | |
| 1999 | Amy Hauptert McBroom & Saul McBroom '99 , Boy, Dyson, Sept. '08 | | |
| 1999 | Theresa Hanish Covert & Douglas Covert '99 , Boy, Douglas, Oct. '08 | | |
| 1999 | Shannon Slaikeu Horstman & Dwayne Horstman , Boy, Chase, Sept. '08 | | |
| 1999 | Coral Wahlin Simones & Patrick Simones , Girl, Nora, Aug. '08 | | |
| 1999 | Angela Holland Hoepfer & Michael Hoepfer , 1 girl, 3 boys, Riley, Liam, Maxwell & Finian, Oct. '08 | | |
| 1999 | Maria Prom Ramthun & Aaron Ramthun '98 , Boy, Deacon, Sept. '08 | | |
| 1999 | Amy Arndt Fedie & John Fedie , Boy, William, Oct. '08 | | |
| 2000 | Amie Ludwig Grove & Nate Grove , Boy, Owen, June '08 | | |
| 2000 | Kathleen Comer Kadlec & Matthew Kadlec , Girl, Paige, Aug. '08 | | |
| 2000 | Jill Beyer Kieser & Paul Kieser '00 , Girl, Annika, Sept. '08 | | |
| 2000 | Meg Kulenkamp Mitchell & Ryan Mitchell '98 , Girl, Grace, Sept. '08 | | |
| 2000 | Julie Lewandowski Nelson & Dan Nelson , Boy, Phillip, Aug. '08 | | |
| 2000 | Katie Dekarski Lamecker & Nick Lamecker '00 , Girl, Anna, Nov. '08 | | |
| 2000 | Kimberly Wachowiak Johnson & Rocky Johnson , Girl, Claire, Jan. '09 | | |
| 2001 | Lisa Kuechle Ed & Christopher Ed , girl, Emmalyn, Sept. '08 | | |
| 2001 | Kelly Konz Larson & Carl Larson , Girl, Morgan, July '08 | | |

Bundles of Joy

- | | | | |
|------|---|--|--|
| 1971 | Pat Sullivan , Adopted Girl, Maria, July '07, born Oct. '04 | | |
| 1987 | Kathy Saeugling Hendrickson & Tad Hendrickson '89 , Adopted Boy, Aug. '08, born Dec. '07 | | |
| 1989 | Marie Fugate Wallace & Christopher Wallace , Girl, Lucia, Jan. '09 | | |
| 1990 | Mary McGargill Grenier & Robert Grenier , Girl, Elizabeth, Aug. '08 | | |
| 1990 | Cindi Hoofnagle Gilmore & Thomas Gilmore , Boy, William, June '08 | | |
| 1991 | Brenda Asselin Lochen & Keith Lochen , Girl, Emma, July '08 | | |
| 1992 | Monica Medina & Steven McCurdy , Girl, Magnolia, Nov. '08 | | |
| 1992 | LuAnne Kinney Pederson & Greg Pederson , Boy, Mitchell, Oct. '08 | | |
| 1993 | Heidi Halstrom & Eric Hokanson '92 , Boy, Olin, Sept. '08 | | |
| 1993 | Audrey Lamoureux Morrey & Matthew Morrey '93 , Girl, Emma, Sept. '08 | | |
| 1993 | Teresa Greenhaw Weiby & Clayton Weiby , Boy, Matthew, Aug. '08 | | |
| 1993 | Michelle Holschuh Simmons & Bob Holschuh Simmons '93 , Twin Boys, Alexander & Marc, Dec. '08 | | |
| 1993 | Wendy Wavernack Roder & Rick Roder , Girl, Mary, July '08 | | |
| 1993 | Jennifer Muyres Palmer & Mitchell Palmer , Boy, Benjamin, Aug. '08 | | |
| 1994 | Carmen Flanagan & John McShane , Boy, Drew, Oct. '08 | | |
| 1994 | Lisa Dopp Domyahn & Mark Domyahn , Girl, Evonne, Aug. '08 | | |
| 1994 | Jennifer Fontaine Modeen & Nathan Modeen '95 , Girl, Sophia, Sept. '08 | | |
| 1995 | Suzanne Zobitz Kelly & Jason Kelly '93 , Boy, Blake, Oct. '08 | | |
| 1995 | Jen Dailey Haugo & Dean Haugo , | | |

Reunion!

June 26 to 28

Class years ending in "4" and "9"



Christine Munger '02 and Agustin Luna announce the birth of Alex Rey Luna Munger, January 26.

Dana Kelly '02 married Matthew Fitzpatrick, December 31, 2008.



- 2001 **Melinda Noll Jungbauer & Matthew Jungbauer '01**, Boy, Michael, May '08
- 2001 **Jessica Lessard Maslow & John Maslow '00**, Girl, Madeline, Aug. '08
- 2001 **Tessa Beckers Wohletz & Jason Wohletz**, Boy, Trevin, Oct. '08
- 2001 **Kelley Connor Stangler & Jeff Stangler '00**, Girl, Luella, Aug. '08
- 2001 **Janna Winter Galloway & Dave Galloway '01**, Boy, Jack, Nov. '08
- 2001 **Tamie Palm Wimmer & Richard Wimmer**, Twin Girls, Abby & Libby, Dec. '08
- 2001 **Emily Bunce Wanning & Peter Wanning '01**, Girl, Whitney, May '08
- 2001 **Elaine Keppers Thelen & Jason Thelen '01**, Boy, Eli, Aug. '08
- 2001 **Theresa Kidd Case & Andrew Case '01**, Girl, Leah, Dec. '08
- 2001 **Mindy Fradin Gallagher & Adam Gallagher '01**, Girl, Fiona, Jan. '09
- 2001 **Reyna Manley Hartley & David Hartley '01**, Boy, Liam, Jan. '09
- 2001 **Karen Marketon Swartzler & Brian Swartzler**, Boy, Benjamin, Sept. '08
- 2002 **AmyJo Boushek Schaffer & Nick Schaffer '02**, Boy, Matthew, Sept. '08
- 2002 **Megan Aspengren Lapos & Andrew Lapos '02**, Boy, Adam, Oct. '08
- 2002 **Michelle Kelash Hemmesch & Michael Hemmesch '97**, Boy, William, Aug. '08
- 2002 **Jaime Peterson Tooley & Ryan Tooley '02**, Girl, Josilyn, Sept. '08
- 2002 **Kristin Kragseth Tapper & David Tapper**, Girl, Gwen, Oct. '08
- 2002 **Becky Cole Ahlstrom & Justin Ahlstrom '02**, Boy, Eli, Dec. '08
- 2002 **Gervea Hermanson Minks & Troy Minks**, Boy, Vaughn, Jan. '09
- 2002 **Melanie Staneart Odden & Christopher Odden**, Girl, Elizabeth, Jan. '09
- 2002 **Abby Spychalla & Todd MacIver**, Girl, Avery, Jan. '09
- 2002 **Holly Apland McGowan & Patrick McGowan '00**, Boy, Noah, Aug. '08
- 2002 **Stephanie Frame Reierson & Michael Reierson '03**, Girl, Hannah, June '08
- 2002 **Molly Willson Lahr & Brian Lahr '03**, Girl, Greta, Aug. '08
- 2002 **Katie Jirele Brost & Brian Brost**,

- Boy, Ian, July '08
- 2002 **Angie Niehaus Mareck & Gary Mareck**, Girl, Emma, Nov. '08
- 2003 **Yvette Anez & Dean Robinson**, Boy, Blake, Jan '09
- 2003 **Cristin McMullen & Lee Jacobson**, Boy, Samuel, Dec. '08
- 2004 **Sally Soulek Jensen & Shane Jensen '04**, Boy, Caden, Sept. '08
- 2004 **Megan Hubley Vetter & Brian Vetter**, Boy, Maxwell, Sept. '08
- 2004 **Molly Petracek Shields & Derrick Shields**, Girl, Nellie, June '08
- 2004 **Angela Prindle Palen & Luke Palen '03**, Boy, Jacob, Oct. '08
- 2004 **Jamie Skrbec Lindvall & Dean Lindvall**, Boy, Chase, Sept. '08
- 2004 **Becky Wolf Pitz & Adam Pitz '04**, Boy, Noah, Nov. '08
- 2005 **Lindsay Huerd Meyers & Dan Meyers**, Girl, Isabelle, Sept. '08
- 2005 **Claire Callahan Stocker & Christopher Stocker '04**, Girl, Corinne, Sept. '08
- 2006 **Cynthia Kraft Hogenson & Erik Hogenson**, Girl, Kaylyn, Oct. '08
- 2006 **Jill Carr Koch & Mark Koch '02**, Girl, Lucy, Nov. '08
- 2006 **Alli Vacek Weaver & Andrew Weaver '04**, Boy, Noah, Jan. '09

In memoriam

- 1927 Sister Glenore Riedner, Oct. '08
- 1931 Hildegard Schwankl, Jan. '09
- 1932 James Welter, brother of Sr. Linnea Welter, Oct. '08
- 1932 Sister Linnea Welter, Dec. '08
- 1932 Isabelle Cebulla Durenberger, Dec. '08
- 1934 Rose Benning Brandl, Oct. '08
- 1934 Angie Mrozla Hart, Dec. '08
- 1935 Marion Olson Vogel, Nov. '08
- 1937 Irenemae Madigan Mosford, Jan. '09
- 1938 Luella McGraw Donlin, Nov. '08
- 1939 Frances McCormick Hall, Nov. '08
- 1939 Louise Terwey '78, daughter of Jo Zehnle Terwey, Dec. '08
- 1940 Sr. Jeremy Hall, Nov. '08
- 1940 Lorraine DesRoches Stock '54, sibling of Grace DesRoches Davis, Dec. '08
- 1940 Mary Petters McLain '50, sister of Marguerite Petters Fogarty, Jan. '09

- 1941 Betty Boulger Carpenter, Jan. '07
- 1942 Valerie Bettendorf, Dec. '08
- 1943 Robert Mertz '43, spouse of Bettie Pepper Mertz, Nov. '08
- 1943 Dorothy Garding Fojut, April '08
- 1944 Doris Ellenbecker Ray, Sept. '08
- 1944 Sister Cassian Peters, Oct. '08
- 1945 Wally Edelbrock '43, brother of Phyllis Edelbrock Prem, Dec. '08
- 1948 Doris Ellenbecker Ray, sister of Anna Lou Ellenbecker Ritz, Sept. '08
- 1948 George Walker, Jr., spouse of Teresa Blatz Walker, Oct. '08
- 1948 Merwyn Schmidt, Nov. '08
- 1949 Erwin Greeninger, brother of Rosemary Greeninger Stonick, Dec. '08
- 1949 Marvin Schultz, spouse of Mary Martin Schultz, Nov. '08
- 1950 Louis Stang, spouse of Mary Glatzel Stang, Oct. '08
- 1950 Mary Petters McLain, Jan. '09
- 1952 Steven Birk, son of Mary Lou Schrank Birk, Dec. '08
- 1954 Lorraine DesRoches Stock, Dec. '08
- 1955 Sr. Marie Zwilling, Nov. '08
- 1955 Sr. Nancy Hynes, Dec. '08
- 1955 Raymond Gaebel, brother of Sr. Cordis Gaebel, Dec. '08
- 1956 Sister Frances Borgerding, Oct. '08
- 1957 Finton O'Brien, sibling to Gerry O'Brien Latterell, Nov. '08
- 1958 Joseph Erickson, husband of Dawn Wildman Erickson, Jan. '09
- 1959 Leo Bieganeck, brother of Rita Bieaneck Kainz, Jan. '09
- 1960 Alvina Hansen, mother of Bev Hansen Schreiner, Nov. '08
- 1961 Fr. David Wild, brother to Sister Moira Wild, Oct. '08
- 1964 Finton O'Brien, sibling to Colleen O'Brien Sathre, Nov. '08
- 1964 Mary Ann Malinsky, mother of Gerry Malinsky Anderson, Jan. '09
- 1965 Richard Quatrala, spouse of Diane Riesgraf Quatrala, May '08
- 1965 Leonard Kittleson, father of Judi Kittleson Kearney, Dec. '08
- 1965 DiAnn Marcus Bormes reports that her mother died
- 1965 Michael Beagan, brother of Mary Beagan, Dec. '08

1967	Willy Decker, Jr., brother of Shirley Decker Martz, Oct. '08	1977	Harold Roelike, father of Mary Jane Roelike Blonigen, Oct. '08	1982	Birchard, Jan. '09
1967	Robert Knautz, husband of Mary Sue Buberl Knautz, Sep. '08	1977	Joyce Fleming, mother of Anne Fleming Mellesmoen, July '08	1982	William Mateer, father of Trish Mateer Ludwig, Jan. '09
1968	Armella Eddleston, mother of Sherry Eddleston Schemmel, Oct. '08	1977	John Relf, father of Cathy Relf, Nov. '08	1983	LeRoy Lemieux, father of Lori Lemieux Kornely, Dec. '08
1968	Maxine Sluka Penas, Dec. '08	1977	John Watercott, father of Ellen Watercott Bernardson, Nov. '08	1983	Marie Boyle, mother of Maureen Boyle, Jan. '09
1968	Elizabeth Pohland, mother of Jean Pohland Lee, Dec. '08	1977	Stanley McDonald, father of Maria McDonald Pederson, Nov. '08	1984	Katharine Poxleitner, mother of Dee Poxleitner Lonn, Oct. '08
1968	Louise Terwey '78, sister of Ann Terwey Orth, Dec. '08	1977	Mark Wald, brother of Judy Wald Werner, Dec. '08	1984	Mary Petters McLain '50, mother of Carol McLain Heinze, Jan. '09
1969	Murray Risch, father of Ann Risch, Sept. '08	1977	Louise Terwey '78, sister of Susan Terwey, Dec. '08	1986	Harold White, father of Cynthia White Heiland, Oct. '08
1969	John Schumer, brother of Sr. Mary Schumer, Nov. '08	1977	Timothy Kornder, brother of Nancy Kornder Adams, Jan. '09	1987	Mary Blatz, sibling to Sara Blatz Sobhani, Nov. '08
1969	John Witt, brother of Kathy Witt Perry, Jan. '09	1978	Linda Muchlinski St. Ores, Oct. '08	1987	Leon Dodd, father of Tamara Dodd-Villegas, Nov. '08
1969	Clarence Gertken, father of Carol Gertken Thompson, Jan. '09	1978	Louise Terwey, Dec. '08	1987	Geraldine Idzerda, mother of Cathy Idzerda, Jan. '09
1969	Ellen Ring, step-mother of Marlene Ring Sebastian, Jan. '09	1978	Andy Wersal, brother of Lisa Wersal, Nov. '08	1987	Marie Boyle, mother of Maryellen Boyle Steger, Jan. 09
1970	Rose Benning Brandl '34, mother of Mary Brandl Reynolds, Oct. '08	1978	Isabelle Trettel, mother of Adelaide Trettel, Jan. '09	1988	Wayne Kramer, father of Jean Kramer Lacey, Nov. '08
1971	Hilda Tomczik Sundstrom, mother of Jan Tomczik Hennemann, Dec. '08	1979	James Welter, father of Paula Welter, Oct. '05	1988	Philip Joseph, father of Anna Joseph Pribyl, Nov. '08
1972	Irma Mazzitelli, mother of Teresa Mazzitelli, Oct. '08	1979	Al Groetsch, father of Sandy Groetsch Davis, Nov. '08	1988	Gilbert Mages '61, father of Lisa Mages Green, Dec. '08
1972	Clara Meyer, mother of Twyla Meyer, Dec. '08	1979	Dolores Hansen, mother of Susan Hansen Sauer, Nov. '08	1989	Gary Tatro, father of Tammy Tatro Lensing, Dec. '08
1972	Geraldine Idzerda, mother of Geri Idzerda, Jan. '09	1979	Wilfred Pauly, father of Mary Jo Pauly, Jan. '09	1989	Gene Lenard, father of Jane Lenard Kretsch, Jan. '09
1972	Betty Lorentz, mother of Patricia Lorentz Kirikiti, Jan. '08	1980	William Richter, father of Jean Richter Haug, Oct. '08	1991	Al Tillman, father of Sherry Tillman Binsfeld, Nov. '08
1972	Bill DeWenter, husband of Elaine Loesch DeWenter, Jan. '09	1980	Ronald Wolfbauer, father of Victoria Wolfbauer Nguyen, Oct. '08	1991	Margaret Donohue, mother of Meg Donohue-Nelson, Nov. '08
1972	John Witt, brother of Bev Witt, Jan. '09	1980	George Walker, Jr., father of Liz Walker Potter, Oct. '08	1994	Maxine Sluka Penas '68, mother of Mary Penas Anderson, Dec. '08
1972	Clarence Gertken, father of Mary Ann Gertken Johnson, Jan. '09	1980	Joyce Fleming, mother of Barbara Fleming, July '08	1994	David Knutson, step-father of Nancy Gilbert Kirchner, Jan. '09
1973	Charles Wilson, spouse of Ann Landwehr Wilson, June '08	1980	John Relf, father of Marnie Relf Prentice, Nov. '08	1996	Catherine Guzik, Oct. '08
1973	Karl Kassulke, husband of Susan Scipioni Kassulke, Oct. '08	1980	Stanley McDonald, father of Patrice McDonald Culhane, Nov. '08	1996	Louie Wakeman, father of Tamara Wakeman Sukohl, Nov. '08
1973	Marion Olson Vogel '35, mother of Linda Vogel, Nov. '08	1980	Kenneth Vetsch, father of Patricia Peterson McCann, Dec. '08	1997	Russell Hanson, father of Tanya Hanson Leither, Nov. '08
1973	Clement Young, father of Mary Young Croffut, Nov. '08	1981	Roseanne Engbloom, mother of Theresa Engbloom, Nov. '08	1997	Anne Lewandowski Notch, Jan. '09
1973	Clara Meyer, mother of Twyla Meyer, Dec. '08	1981	Elsie Bisek, mother of Becky Bisek Wolf, Dec. '08	1998	Nathaniel Burke, newborn son of Jeanette Miranowski Burke, Oct. '09
1973	Bonnie Loch Hlebain, Jan. '09	1981	Molly Tadich, sister of Mary Tadich, Dec. '08	1998	Harlan Urness, father of Ema Urness Hartung, Jan. '09
1974	Edith Hebert, mother of Judith Hebert Grimm, Oct. '08	1981	Esther Schumann, mother of Susie Schumann Allman, Dec. '08	2000	David Knutson, father of Katie Knutson, Jan. '09
1974	Patricia Ceronisky, mother of Susan Ceronisky Ramsey, Aug. '08	1982	Edith Foley, mother of Monica Foley Fleegel, Oct. '08	2003	Mike Milligan, father of Kelley Milligan, Nov. '08
1975	Murray Risch, father of Martha Risch, Sept. '08	1982	Joan Perrault, mother of Maggie Perrault Knack, Nov. '08	2005	Keenan Buhl, brother of Kaia Buhl, Oct. '07
1975	Linda Muchlinski St. Ores '78, sister of Marsha Muchlinski Culhane, Oct. '08	1982	Leland Boyland, father of Patricia Boyland, Dec. '08	2007	Arthur Spring, father of Rose Spring, Feb. '08
1975	Louise Terwey '78, sister of Martha Terwey Benton, Dec. '08	1982	Mae Hanegraaf, mother of Margaret Hanegraaf, Dec. '08	2009	Arthur Spring, father of Joan Spring, Feb. '08
1976	Dorothea Juroszek, mother of Theresa Juroszek Alvarado, Nov. '08	1982	Erin Delaney, Dec. '08	2009	Eric Rego '06, brother of Crystal Rego, Dec. '08
1976	William Mateer, father of Jennifer Mateer, Dec. '08	1982	Mary Boyland, mother of Patty Boyland, Jan. '09		
		1982	Gene Lenard, father of Mary Lenard		

“I’M A BENNIE”



Pam Woods '74

Jazz Entertainer, Bahamas

She sings from the heart

Please describe your work:

I taught for almost 30 years and was a weekend entertainer. I thought I would never make a living as an entertainer, so teaching provided income while I did what my heart desired on stage.

I’m still a teacher, but I’m also a professional performer. I use all the skills of a teacher to pull and draw out audiences. Sometimes there is no response – like a class – and you wonder if you are getting through. I still use the tricks of the classroom.

When I made the transition to singing and playing piano full time, I had a principal who would introduce me as “international recording artist, Pam Woods.” I’ve played in Russia, Dubai, Scotland, Switzerland, and Canada.

How did you end up doing what you are doing?

In Mary Commons, there was a rickety old piano. I played it and sang, anytime day or night, and it was healing. There are those times where you can’t explain why you are lonely, and I would play and sing at the top of my lungs. Just belt it out.

Then, Sister Marie decided to pull the music out of me. She gave me voice lessons. I didn’t know I could sing. At Saint Ben’s, I

learned to sing in Latin, German and French. When the door opens, you have to go through it. Saint Ben’s was that door for me.

Which aspects of your CSB experience have helped you in your achievements?

The sheer belief that the Sisters at Saint Ben’s had in me, when I think about it, was the gift of God.

Professor Axel Theimer also was supportive. I was at a choir function and was the only black person in the choir. A little girl was pointing at me and calling me the “N” word. This was in the early 70s, you understand, in this little town of St. Joseph. When I realized she meant me, I burst out crying. Professor Theimer sent a letter to the junior high school where we had performed, and I felt on top of the world. I thought – look at this professor . . . he was so supportive.

I could never forget the children’s curiosity in St. Cloud. The children would want to touch my skin and say “You’re soft like me.” My daddy said, “Just love people. If you learn to love, you have learned the deepest secret.” The second secret is to forgive. Forgiveness is a wonderful healing power.

Saint Ben’s gave me life. I was the girl – like any girl on the island – who could have been here her

whole life with 8 kids, no education, no money, and her only hope is for her children. That’s a lot going against the grain. I would not be one of the many numbers with little hope.

What are the challenges of what you do?

There is no glamour. It is a lot of hard work. We still get up early in the morning; we do our own costumes, our own bookings. We have bills to pay, and families to raise. We cook and clean for ourselves. I think people normally think there is a big salary, and there can be a big salary. Not always, though.

What advice would you give to young people today who are thinking about your kind of work or to young people in general?

Learn your craft. Explore all possibilities. Expand on the experiences of your forefathers so that you may stand on their shoulders.

Have a mentor. Sir Etienne Dupuch, who was the editor of the *The Tribune*, in Nassau, Bahamas was my mentor and instrumental in enrolling me at the College of Saint Benedict. He advised me to read world news and to enlarge the arena of an island life.



COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

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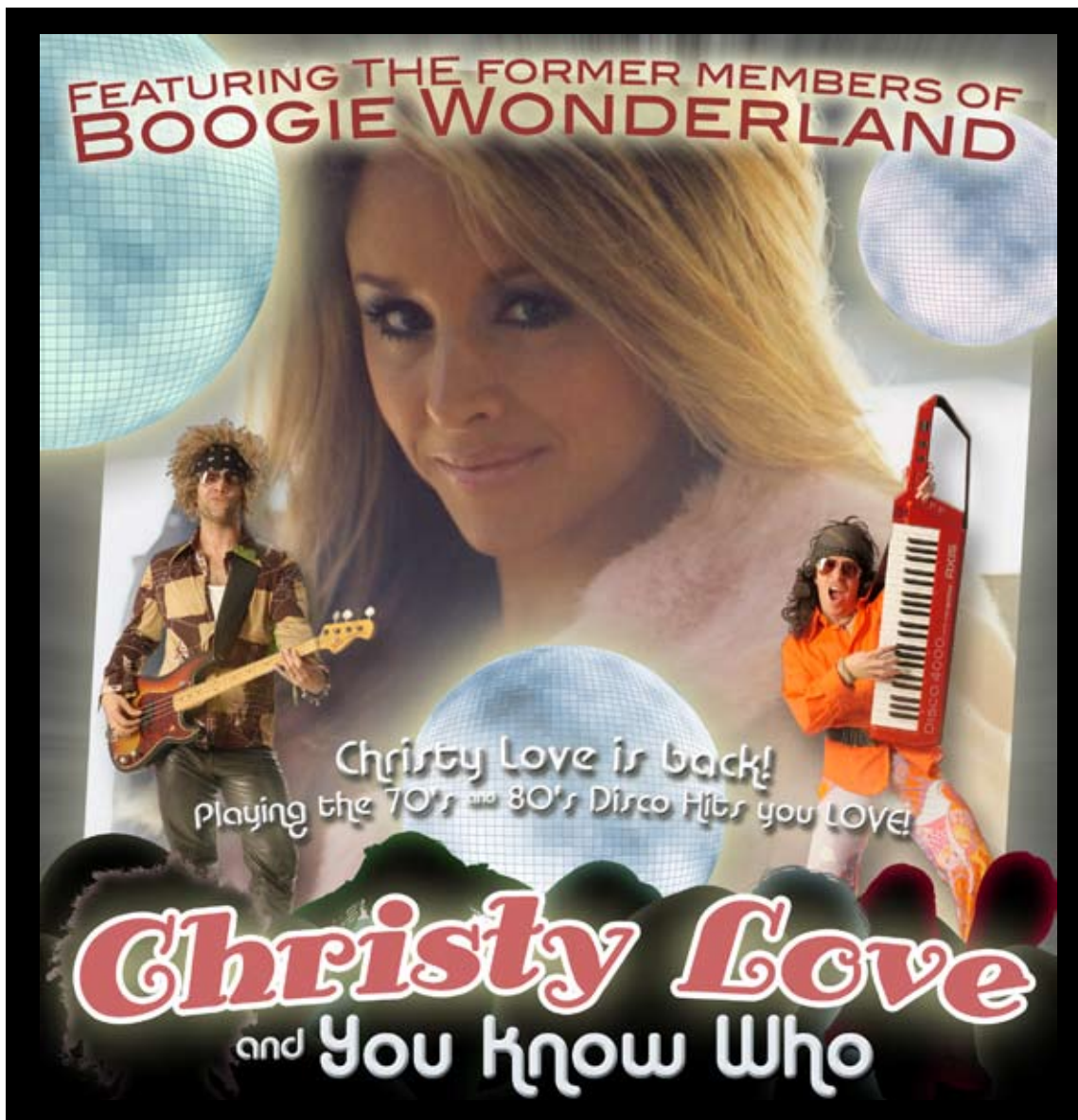
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