

community

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

Walesa Inspired Audience with Wit and Wisdom

Prepared by Glenda Isaacs Burgeson
Community Editor

Using gentle humor, Nobel Prize-winner Lech Walesa chided the world's only superpower to exercise moral leadership in his public lecture, "The Legacy of Solidarity in Poland: Twenty Five Years Later." Walesa gave his remarks to an appreciative and packed house Nov. 30 in the Abbey Church on the SJU campus.

Hosted by CSB and SJU, his visit was sponsored by the University Chair in Critical Thinking at SJU. In welcoming remarks, Nick Hayes, holder of the University Chair in Critical Thinking, hailed Walesa as the "outstanding Catholic statesman of our time." Br. Dietrich Reinhart, SJU president, observed that, while historians tend to dismiss the role of the individual as an agent of change, "We live in a world deeply in debt to the fact that our guest made a decision to make a difference when he jumped a shipyard fence on Aug. 14, 1980."

Walesa, in his version of the downfall of Soviet power, delivered a modest account of events that catapulted him to the world stage, but first he tried to convey the unique geo-political circumstances the Polish people historically have faced. Poland, located between Asia and Europe, between Germany and Russia, has provided the most direct route for



SJU President Br. Dietrich Reinhart and Greg Schroeder, associate professor of history, visit with Walesa. (Photo: Lee A. Hanley)

warring adventurers, he explained. And sometimes, while passing through, the invading armies decided to stay and occupy. At one time, he noted, Poland was erased from the world map for 120 years.

This history of invasion and occupation has given the Polish people a special sensitivity, an ability to anticipate what others might choose to ignore. Before World War II, for example, Poland tried to warn the world about German aggression, "but the world would not listen.

"At the end of the war, the Polish people were the only ones to realize that Stalin was trying to trick the world. And what happened to us then? Fifty years of struggle to get rid of the system imposed by Stalin."

Walesa recalled the hopelessness of resistance. "We stood no chance," he said,

against nuclear weapons and Soviet power. They stood no chance, until they were given "the gift of a Polish pope."

Before the visit to Poland by Pope John Paul II, people did not have the courage to oppose communism. However, when John Paul II came to Poland, "The world looked on in astonishment as Polish people flocked to see the pope."

Although the pope never encouraged them to fight communism, his visit galvanized their courage as they realized they were "a nation of believers."

Having recounted then, how the Polish people traversed from hopelessness to defeating a murderous system "without a single shot," Walesa challenged the world's remaining superpower to exercise political and moral leadership in the era of globalization.

CSB/SJU Announces First Signature Academic Programs

CSB/SJU has designated international education and environmental studies as their first signature academic programs. The designations are part of a strategic planning initiative to strengthen interdisciplinary programs.

Demand for international education is very high at CSB/SJU both among students and faculty, who travel “global pathways” that tie together academic learning and field experiences. Study abroad at CSB/SJU combines faculty-led overseas programs with a very high student participation rate. Before graduating, some 50 percent of all CSB/SJU students will pass through one of CSB/SJU’s 17 semester-long programs located in 13 countries across six continents. Over the past eight years, both the number of countries and students enrolled in study abroad programs has doubled. For the past two years, CSB/SJU has been among the top three undergraduate liberal arts colleges nationally for number of students studying abroad, including nearly twice the national average at CSB.

“Signature status will increase both the breadth and quality of our study abroad options, as well as support global internships, research and intercultural experiential activities,” noted Kristi Kremers, CSB/SJU global education coordinator.

The benefits to environmental studies from signature program status come in two initial elements. Environmental studies is currently searching for a faculty leader in the area of environmental geography, which will add an entirely new discipline to the campuses, while also supporting core work in the discipline. The second piece is that environmental studies has been given approval to join the National Council on Science and the Environment, a Washington-based organization that is emerging as the national coor-

dinating body for environmental studies programs.

Physical resources clearly distinguish CSB/SJU from most other environmental studies programs in the nation, including important attributes like the Saint John’s Arboretum, CSB campus woods and the nearby Mississippi River.

“We view signature status as a sign that the hard work of program faculty over the past five years has paid off,” said Derek Larson, CSB/SJU environmental studies program director. “We’ve done a great deal with faculty effort and student enthusiasm; this recognizes our past success and positions us well to move into the future as we respond both to the global environmental crisis and the growing student interest in learning how we may best address the problems that threaten the community of life on our planet.”

MLK Celebration Week Planned

The following campus events are scheduled for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration and observance.

Monday, Jan. 16 — Performances pay tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 7 p.m., SJU Stephen B. Humphrey Auditorium

Tuesday, Jan. 17 — The Faculty Dream On Team presents “Dream On: Contemporary Civil Rights in a Historical Context, 7 p.m., SJU Quad 264

Wednesday, Jan. 18 — CRASH: movie and discussion around the themes and cultural implication on how this impacts our lives at CSB/SJU as well as society at large, 7 p.m., CSB Alumnae Hall

Thursday, Jan. 19 — How Welcoming is Your Workplace? 11 a.m., CSB Alumnae Hall

Thursday, Jan. 19 — No Longer Dreaming to Live but Living the Dream: Instruments of Faith and Spirituality as

Taught by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Learn. Discuss. Reflect. 7 p.m., CSB Alumnae Hall. (Please register for this event at www.csbsju.edu/selt/)

Friday, Jan. 20 — Soul Food Dinner and Speaker, 7 p.m., SJU Quad 264

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. (For more information, please contact Shaun Crumb at 2581.)

Friday, Jan. 21-22 — The Actor’s Gang Presents: *The Exonerated*. The true life story of six death row inmates released after they were proven innocent of their crimes. 8 p.m., SJU Stephen B. Humphrey Auditorium

CSB/SJU Students Participate in Intergenerational Forum on China

CSB/SJU students participated with more than 80 senior citizens Nov. 21, in a forum exploring intergenerational American perceptions of China. “Connecting the Generations: Unfolding Events in China” was held at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and organized by the Bush Foundation-funded CSB/SJU Asian Studies Learning Community (ASLC) and the Minneapolis-based Cooperative Adult Ministry (CoAM). It was underwritten by a grant from the Minnesota Humanities Commission.

The seniors and 17 students had long prepared for the discussion by reading a number of books and articles on China. Following a catered Chinese lunch in the church hall, four panelists chosen by CoAM and four CSB/SJU panelists chosen by their classmates compared American perceptions of pre- and post-Mao China. The CoAM participants (some of whom had served as missionaries in China) recalled the China of their undergraduate days suffering from Japanese occupation, civil war, starvation, poverty

and an uncertain future. The students, who had experiences in the “new” China, portrayed a China fast becoming an economic superpower in need of closer relationships with the United States. Following the panel presentation, the audience joined in a lively discussion of the importance of history as a guide to the present and future. Based on their experience of the earlier China, the CoAM participants were unprepared for China’s current emergence on the world stage. The CSB/SJU participants accept this emergence as a promise of shared peace and prosperity across the Pacific and want to play a role in advancing that promise. Both seniors and students agreed that China’s integration into the global economy of the twenty-first century is the best way for the country to achieve the stability and democracy denied it during the twentieth.

During their debriefing back at CSB/SJU, the students reported having learned a great deal from their exchange of views with the senior citizens and determined to talk with their parents and grandparents during the Thanksgiving break about their generational views of the impact of history on the present and future. The CoAM participants wrote in their evaluations that their encounter with our students provided hope and confidence that the future of U.S.-China relations is in good hands.

Annual Kiln Firing Yields International Treasures

The Saint John’s Pottery and master potter and artist-in-residence Richard Bresnahan recently completed the eighth firing of the Johanna Kiln. Some 12,000 pieces prepared by more than 26 artists and students were placed in the three kiln chambers for an eight-day firing cycle. Thirty potters and helpers, from as far



Pottery by Goro Suzuki.

away as Tokoname and Kamiyahagi, Japan participated in the event. Dr. Chuck Hindes, professor of ceramics at the University of Iowa, and two of his graduate students participated. Many former Jerome Foundation Emerging Artists and Grotto Foundation and McGlynn Foundation Apprentices also helped with the firing chores. After the ceremonial blessing of the kiln, S. Johanna Becker, OSB, for whom the kiln is dedicated, and Sarah Celeste Bresnahan, daughter of the master potter, set the fire.

Two Japanese potters flew in to participate in the firing. Akira Koie and Takeru Tomimoto learned loading and firing techniques from Bresnahan and his team.

Commenting on the firing, Bresnahan said, “The firing was outstanding. Jesus was in the Tanegashima Chamber. He had to be. The quality of the color on the pieces is some of the best I have ever experienced. I fired 150 pieces of Japanese master ceramist Goro Suzuki. He was



Pottery by Koie Ryoji.

here this late summer. He works in the centuries-old Oribe and Shino style, and was recently designated one of Japan’s National Living Treasures.” Among Suzuki’s numerous works, the firing included eight tea bowls that will be included in a 2006 book on Shino ware as well as a national exhibition by the government of Japan.

Last summer, Japan’s leading contemporary artist and potter, Koie Ryoji, spent 10 days at the Pottery. He is the recipient of the prestigious Oribe Award, Japan’s highest honor for a contemporary living artist. During his time here, he created several hundred pieces that were fired. Over 100 of those items will be on display at the National Museum in Seoul, Korea that opens in May 2006, filling seven large galleries.

Bresnahan pottery has been and will be featured in several shows. This past summer, nine of his pieces were on display at The Art Complex Museum in Duxbury, Mass. After the show, two of Bresnahan’s pieces were purchased by the museum for its permanent collection. In December, Japan/USA will open at the Santa Fe Clay in New Mexico. The show is a cross-cultural exchange between Japanese artists working in the U.S. and American artists who have studied in Japan. Some 50 international artists will participate in the show; Bresnahan has contributed four pieces to the show.

Bresnahan has also been invited to speak at two prestigious conferences in 2006. In April, he will keynote the annual meeting of AsiaNet, in Chicago. Richard Bohr, professor of history and director of the CSB/SJU Asian Studies Program, is chair of AsiaNet. In May, Bresnahan has been invited to keynote the opening of a three-day international symposium at Kalamazoo College on “Tea Time: The Art of the Teapot.”

Benedictines, Franciscans Collaborate for Justice

Submitted by Katie Perry,
Monastery publicist

The Sisters of Saint Benedict's Monastery and the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls are collaborating to strengthen their justice and peace ministries locally and globally.

"The sisters' aim is to educate themselves and the greater community on key Gospel justice concerns, to serve as role models within their own congregations and to strengthen their role as voices for the most vulnerable in the world," according to S. Merle Nolde, OSB, who spearheads the seven-member Benedictine committee.

To implement this collaboration, the World Justice/New Jubilee (WJ/NJ) Committee of the Sisters of Saint Benedict and the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Advisory Committee of the Franciscan Sisters have established a joint Franciscan-Benedictine Justice Committee.

"Initial efforts will focus on the importance of clean water, both on a local and on a global level," said Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation coordinator Jeff Odendahl, who works alongside 16 Franciscan sisters and lay associates.

The joint committee will seek more information about how they and their congregations can conserve water and refrain from actions that pollute water and the environment. They will also look at how they can be advocates for clean water in their respective communities and for ways to improve access to clean water for people living in some of the poorest areas of the world.

CSB/SJU Administrator Named to Election Observation Mission

Chris Hummel, coordinator of competitive fellowships and awards at CSB/SJU, was named to the U.S. delegation of an election observation mission sent to Kazakhstan prior to that country's Dec. 4 presidential election. The observation mission is organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a regional security organization composed of 55 member states. Hummel was one of 37 from the U.S. delegation and 400 overall short-term observers recruited from OSCE member states.

"The role of an election observation mission is to ensure that electoral processes are consistent with international and local norms, to promote transparency in democratic institutions and to provide confidence to voters that their vote matters," Hummel said.

This is Hummel's fifth time as a member of an OSCE delegation. He previously observed elections in the Republic of Macedonia in 2000, 2002 and 2004. He also served as an elections supervisor in Kosovo in 2001.

In recent years, elections in other former Soviet republics have proven the catalyst for major political upheavals in countries such as Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan.

"Elections are just one part, albeit a very visible part, of the democratization process. As observers, our job is to be neutral and impartial," Hummel said. "What we observe on the ground is transmitted to the mission head, who issues the official opinion of the OSCE mission whether the elections met international standards and were 'free and fair.'"

Darnall Joins CSB IA

Stuart Lang, CSB vice president for institutional advancement, has named Kristin Darnall as the new director of alumnae relations. Darnall joined the alumnae relations staff on Monday, Nov. 14.

Darnall has served as the director of audience development for Fine Arts Programming for both CSB and SJU for the past five and a half years.



Darnall

Her excellent work is known to everyone on our campuses, as she has also directed the design and implementation of our beautiful Fine Arts Program marketing effort. She comes to her new position with more than 10 years of diverse marketing and fund-raising experience, and she has worked in the corporate as well as non-profit sectors. She has proven skills in volunteer management and is herself an active, committed volunteer in central Minnesota, through the United Way of Saint Cloud, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota, Women's Fund of Central Minnesota, Emerging Leaders Forum, and others.

Darnall will be responsible for broadening support for CSB, engaging alumnae as participants in the growing volunteer network, and in the life of the college. She will work with the Alumnae Council and the Alumnae Association to promote the vision and mission of the college, improve communications and expand alumnae participation in giving.

Monmouth Fan Sends Thank You Note for Hospitality

Editor's note: The Office of Communication and Marketing Services received the following letter of appreciation from a Monmouth College fan Nov. 22

My husband and I were among the Monmouth College fans who attended the football game at your campus last Saturday. I want to tell you how much we appreciated the hospitality of your students, faculty and staff.

My husband has a breathing problem which requires the use of oxygen with any exertion on his part. We have a handicap parking permit, but were riding with our daughter-in-law and had forgotten to take the permit with us so were not able to use the handicap parking spaces that were near the stadium. We stopped in front of the Flagpole Lot, marked for faculty and staff, and explained our situation to the three young men who were directing the parking and they very generously allowed us to park there. My daughter-in-law and I went to locate the Monmouth seating section and it was obvious my husband was not going to be able to walk that distance. As we passed the building behind your student bleachers, I noticed parked golf carts and asked the students there if the carts were available for fan transportation. I thought my husband, with the use of his portable oxygen and taking plenty of time, could make it to the bottom of the stairs. Another gentleman heard me explaining our situation and said he would go get the key and come over to the parking lot and pick up my husband and bring him to our stand. What a gracious offer and friendly man! He was Mr. Johnson, your ski coach. At the end of the game, a young Security Staff member drove my husband back to our parked van. We were impressed by the helpful and friendly attitude we expe-

rienced on your campus, and are very grateful and thankful for it.

We will cheer your very fine football team on to a National Championship!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Gerald (Rozella) Youngquist
Monmouth, Ill.

New Collegeville Photo Essay Book Available

As Saint John's Abbey and University prepare to celebrate its 150th anniversary, the harmony of the landscape, buildings and people of Collegeville are captured in a new book titled *Collegeville* featuring the compelling photography of Mike and Michael Sipe. The 138-page photo essay in color and black-and-white includes 70 large photographs and five large fold-out pages.

The book, available for \$65, can be ordered exclusively through the CSB/SJU Bookstores. Profits from the sale of the book will go to the Joe O'Connell Art Scholarship Fund and Saint John's Arboretum.

The inspiring images in the book honor the natural and constructed beauty of this special place and the avocations of its residents – from farmers and educators to sculptors and musicians. The book also includes a history of Saint Johns' Abbey, written by Fr. Hilary Thimmesh, who has taught at SJU since 1963 and served as its president from 1982 to 1991.

Mike Sipe has spent most of his life in the Central Minnesota area and his son, Michael, is a professional photographer in Burlington, Vt. Both are graduates of Saint John's Preparatory School and University.

Faculty/Staff News

Sigrid Hedman-Dennis, Healthy Learning Community and nursing faculty member, **Diane Veale Jones**, Healthy Learning Community and nutri-

tion faculty member, and **Beth Wengler**, Gender Learning Community and history faculty member, presented "Collaboration and Growth: Linking Learning Communities" at the 10th annual Learning Communities and Collaboration Conference, Nov. 20, in Chicago. The participants in the two learning communities are grateful to the Bush Foundation because funding allowed CSB/SJU learning communities to experiment with new models of learning communities. Participants who attended the session commented on our innovative, cross-disciplinary and cross-functional approach. Unlike many institutions where learning communities are designed to increase student retention, the Healthy and Gender Learning Communities collaborate to link health and gender issues on our campuses.



Robert Wilde of the art department recently completed a commission for the city of Hutchinson, Minn., of these slightly larger-than-life, full-figure bronze portraits of the three founding Hutchinson brothers. The sculptures are on display in Hutchinson. CSB students K-Sandra Palmer and Sarah Arntson assisted Wilde during a portion of the two-year project.

Veale Jones presented at two sessions at the 49th annual conference of the Minnesota School Food Service Association, Aug. 2 in St. Paul. Her topic was "Hot Dish, *Hilib Ari*, and Tamales: Changing Foodways in Minnesota." Participants explored the food beliefs and practices of Minnesota's newest immigrants and refugees and applied the information to menu planning and recipe development in the school lunch program.

Dr. Basil LeBlanc, a physician in the SJU Health Center, presented a workshop on biowarfare for Life Safety, firefighters, and Health Center staff on July 28. He has presented on this topic to international audiences as well.

Richard Bohr, member of the Editorial Board of *The International Policy Review*, an online journal, edited a special issue entitled "Is China Growing Too Fast?" The issue contains an interdisciplinary collection of impressions and analysis of the consequences of the hyper-economic growth taking place in South China's Pearl River Delta, where the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau as well as the economy of Taiwan are linked to Guangdong, China's wealthiest province. Constituting only 50 million Chinese (ten million of whom work in 53,000 factories in the Delta) and 0.5 percent of China's land mass, the region generates 34 percent of the country's exports, 30 percent of its foreign direct investment, and 19 percent of its GDP. With an annual economic growth rate of 15% and a per capita annual urban income of U.S. \$5,000 (compared to \$1,000 in cities and \$300 in villages outside the area), the region is the world's sixteenth-largest economy and its tenth-largest exporter. Bohr's introductory overview is

followed by articles written by participants of a study tour of the region which Bohr led last summer. The program, which included professors from 16 U.S. liberal arts colleges, was funded by the Fulbright Program of the U.S. Department of Education. The China issue can be found at www.chinabriefs.org.

Anna Thompson, CSB/SJU executive director of fine arts programming, will participate as a seminar leader at a two-day session at the national conference of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters in New York City Jan. 19-20. This seminar provides presenting and touring practitioners with the latest practice and basic foundation for the managerial skill set required for the presenting and touring field today. It is also an opportunity for artist managers and agents to learn in-depth about the pressures and circumstances under which presenters work.

Clayton Gearhart, professor of physics, gave a paper on the "rotational specific heat of molecular hydrogen in the old quantum theory" at the annual meeting of the History of Science Society, in Minneapolis, in November. He also presented the same talk at the CSB/SJU natural sciences seminar, which was also held in November.

Fr. Anthony Ruff of the theology department and School of Theology, has accepted the position of contributing editor for the publication *Assembly of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy* for the year 2006. He has also accepted a position on the board of directors of the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada.

Ernie Diedrich, professor of economics and environmental studies, gave a presen-

tation, "Moving Away From Oil," on Nov. 19, to the League of Women Voters. He also gave a keynote address, "Planning for Peak Oil: Policies for Sustainability in an Oil-Short World," on Dec. 3, at a fund-raising dinner at the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center.

In the Media

Richard Bohr, CSB/SJU professor of history and director of Asian studies, was a guest on Minnesota Public Radio's *Midday* program to analyze the potential impact of the recent China visits of the Minnesota state trade mission and the Minnesota Private College Council. He addressed the same theme in his appearance on Minnesota Public Television's *Almanac* program on Nov. 18.

Fr. Jerome Tupa, CSB/SJU professor of French, has an exhibit, "The Road to Rome," at the National Museum of Catholic Art and History in New York City. The exhibit was featured Sunday, Nov. 13, in *The New York Times*.

SJU Head Football Coach **John Gagliardi** was featured during a 30-minute "Spotlight" program on Fox Sports Net North during the month of November, celebrating 57 years of coaching college football.

Gagliardi also was featured in a Ripley's Believe It or Not! Comic on Aug. 9. The comic was designed by John Graziano and the idea was submitted by sports memorabilia collector and national sports historian John Carpenter from Firebrick, Ky. The comic is available online at <http://www.comics.com/comics/ripleys>.

The Welcome Mat

We welcome the following to the

CSB/SJU community:

Hannah Bruggeman, temporary support

Amanda Hammen, Athletics

Diane Scheierl, Library

Alicia Grosskreutz, McGlynn's

Kaela Kantor, Food Service

Melissa Meemken, Athletics

Mike Killeen, Communication and
Marketing

Jill Dalager, Institutional Advancement

Anastasia Nathe, Registrar

Bethany Feine, Personal and Professional
Development Center

Laura Schmitz, Philosophy Department

William Marsella, Theology

Joyce Meyer, Dining Service

Farewell to Friends

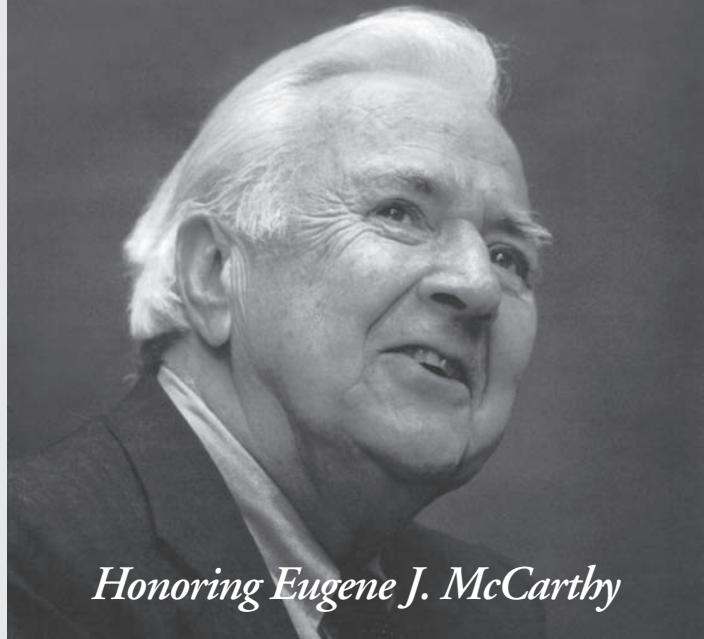
Carole Coleman, vice president of
finance and administration

Jodi Kramer, Institutional Advancement

Linsey Roeder, support

Jane Williams, Business Office

Sara Winscher, Fine Arts Programming



Honoring Eugene J. McCarthy

Photo: Greg Becker

We at Saint John's Abbey and University are saddened at the passing of a dear friend and illustrious alumnus, Senator Eugene J. McCarthy, and we celebrate his brilliant life of service to others.

Gene came to Saint John's as a high school freshman more than 75 years ago and distinguished himself as an excellent student and athlete at the Preparatory School and the University. In 1942, he became a novice at Saint John's Abbey and remained a member of the monastic community for nearly a year. Commenting on Gene's decision to leave the monastery, Fr. Colman Barry said "it was like losing a 20-game winner."

Today we join others in paying tribute to a brilliant career in which Gene skillfully blended philosophy, poetry, politics and humor. It was a career ever distinguished by high ethical standards and a commitment to Benedictine values.

We remain grateful for the many times he came home for a visit. In the midst of his 1968 campaign for the presidency he surprised the political pros when he brought his campaign staff to Saint John's for a four-day retreat. His last visit was three years ago when, frail in body but certainly not in mind, spirit or wit, he came to join the monastic community for an evening meal. Ours was a long, close relationship and we will miss him.

To honor and remember one of Saint John's favorite son's many contributions to his country, Saint John's will have a memorial service for him in the Abbey and University Church at a time to be announced. In addition, the University has established the Eugene J. McCarthy Legacy Fund to perpetuate his extraordinary contributions to political, intellectual and spiritual life.

Abbot John Klassen, OSB

community

Community is published by the CSB/SJU Communication & Marketing Services staff:

Jon McGee, Vice President for Institutional Planning, Research and Communication

Greg Hoye, Executive Director of Communication and Marketing Services

Barbara Hein, Director of Electronic Communications

Greg Becker, Senior Associate Director of Publications and Graphic Services

Glenda Isaacs Burgeson, Director of Editorial Services/*Community* Editor

Mike Durbin, Sports Information Director (CSB)

Michael Hemmesch, Director of Media Relations

Mike Killeen, Assistant Director of Media Relations

Viv Krueger, Project Coordinator (SJU)

Julie Marthaler, Office Coordinator (CSB)

Heidi Ruprecht, Web Graphics Designer

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

The Vietnamese New Year Celebration

By AnLinh Bui, first-year psychology major and biology major

TET means New Year in English. TET is the most important holiday for Vietnamese people to celebrate in their culture. All the houses are decorated with Hoa Mai, a yellow blossom that represents spring. Another item used for decoration during the TET is the kumquat bush, which represents the wish for wealth now and in the future. On the Giao Thua, the night before the first day of the New Year, people cook all different kinds of Vietnamese dishes. Rice pudding, called Banh Chung, is the most important food served during the TET.

During TET, the head of the household lights incense and folds his hands to pray for the ancestors. Traditionally, the ritual involved firecrackers that make loud noises to guide out the old and welcome the new. This custom was abandoned because many people died from the firecrackers in 1991 (Pham, 2005).

There are many symbols of good luck associated with TET:

- Watermelon is lucky because red represents good luck in Vietnamese culture.
- The most respected, wealthiest or healthiest person is invited to be at the door on the first day of the TET because this person brings good luck to the family for the rest of the year.
- No sweeping or dusting is done on New Year's Day because it is believed that all the good fortune will be swept away (Nguyen-Phan, 2005).
- Children receive a red envelope with money from the adults that represents wealth in the future.
- Vietnamese people visit their friends, relatives and go to the pagodas to pray to the Buddha for health, wealth and a good year (Ho, 2005).
- Families invite the Licorn Dance team, the symbol of power and prosperity, to their house to bring good luck to the family. Money tied in a string and left in a specific location is retrieved by the team at the end of the performance.

These traditions and customs are still practiced in Vietnamese culture.

For more information on the Vietnamese New Year, Visit these sites:

- <http://www.vietmedia.com/culture/?L=tet.html>
- Here is the traditional rice pudding, Banh Chung. http://www.acjc.edu.sg/Spectra/VibrantCulture/Vietnam/Pix/banh_chung2.gif
- This is a picture of Hoa Mai. <http://www.vietbao.com/gocanh/IMAGES/TranDucKhoa/hoa-mai.jpg>

References:

- Nguyen-Phan, K. A. (n.d). Tet: New Year Day, Superstition and Eels. http://www.askasia.org/Vietnam_Challenge/curric/elementary/index.htm
- Pham, M. (2001-2004). Inviting the Ancestors for Tet. <http://www.adoptvietnam.org/vietnamese/tet-pham.htm>
- Ho, N. A. (1997-2003). Celebrating the New Year in Vietnam. <http://www.topics-mag.com/internatl/holidays/new-years-vietnam.htm>