

community

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

Koch Chair's Discussion Series Launches Wide-Ranging Conversation

Prepared by Glenda Isaacs Burgeson,
Community editor
CSB/SJU Communication and Marketing

"Education within the Benedictine Wisdom Tradition," a statement issued in August 2007 by the Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities (ABCU), endorses a robust exchange of ideas and opinions. The CSB Koch Chair in Catholic Thought and Culture launched just such a robust exchange of views Nov. 29, in the first of a discussion series, "Engaging the Tradition," which focused on the ABCU statement.

The statement sparked commentary that spanned the centuries and included an embrace of its principles as they apply to specific academic disciplines.

S. Ephrem Hollermann, who holds the Koch Chair, facilitated the conversation, which opened with remarks by representatives of each of the four academic divisions. The purpose of this first discussion of the series was to generate comment at CSB and SJU on the ABCU document, to consider its significance and relevance within the academic divisions and to internalize it and its implications for the educational enterprises of the two campuses, S. Ephrem said.

To provide context for the document, she explained that the ABCU, which currently is chaired by SJU President Br. Dietrich Reinhart, was founded in 1991 by the presidents of the 14 Benedictine institutions. Currently, 11 of the 14 institutions are headed by a non-monastic. The statement on the Benedictine wisdom tradition is intended to help these institutions in the transition from monastic leadership to lay leadership and to internalize the distinctive characteristics of a Catholic Benedictine education, as the number of Benedictine educators declines, she said.

Fr. Robert Koopmann, professor of music and head of the division of fine arts, spoke about the statement's relevance to the fine arts.

"The world discourages us from looking deeply at ourselves," he said, noting that contemporary confusions are not unlike the confusions that existed in Benedict's time in the sixth century.

"The fine arts offer a way to see ourselves and our culture more deeply." Likewise, he said, the Benedictine tradition calls for followers to be reflective and contemplative. The cultivation of mindful attentiveness described in the ABCU statement is accomplished as well in the pursuit or experience of the fine arts.

Richard White, associate professor of chemistry and director of the Honors Program, joked that he was relieved to see that the ABCU document encourages him to be a scientist.

With respect to the Benedictine commitment to listening, the document encourages respect for "the integrity of disciplinary methods of study," "fidelity to the evidence, wherever it leads" and "respect for the viewpoints of others."

In the sciences, White said that skepticism is required. "The challenge is to respect different views," he said.

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COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict



Saint John's
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Self-Study Committee Finds High Commitment for Service

The CSB and SJU communities reap a mutually rewarding benefit from their broad commitment to service. But the extent of that service is difficult to measure precisely because of its vast occurrence. These are among the findings of the Committee on Criterion Five, a self-study group charged with documenting and assessing the institutions' commitment to service and engagement.

Chaired by Christine Munger, CSB assistant director of Companions on a Journey, the committee is one of five conducting the self-study in preparation for the accreditation site visit scheduled for Oct. 13-15, 2008.

"The committee found an astounding breadth of opportunities and programs related to service and engagement in the CSB/SJU communities that adds a deep richness to our campuses," Munger said.

Engaged service is generated from a variety of sources in both academics and student development, with an extensive range of impact, from internal and local to global initiatives, she said.

The committee also considered effectiveness of service. Healthy, service-oriented relationships require that members of the CSB/SJU community seek understanding both of the CSB/SJU institutional mission and identity, while also looking openly and honestly toward the constituents being served, Munger said.

"Members of the CSB/SJU communities must not simply engage constituents in service, but engage them in a manner that is shaped by the particular identity and common values of the institutions," she said.

Consequently, the committee is documenting evidence that service programs actively seek to assure that the needs of those being served are met, evaluate to what extent the constituents value the services offered, and assess what and how much CSB and SJU are capable of offering in service to others without overex-

tending their resources.

Thus far, committee findings show that many of the prominent service programs such as Campus Ministry, Service-Learning and Fast-Forward do indeed ask the constituents that they serve what their needs are and respond with specific, intentional service.

The committee also has recognized the Catholic, Benedictine influence in the service traditions at these residential, liberal arts institutions. "CSB and SJU are called in a special way to engage and serve the constituents that depend on CSB and SJU for service," Munger said.

In recognition of this unique character, the committee used prominent Benedictine values, including listening, stability, justice and hospitality, as guidelines to assess how well CSB and SJU serve and engage others. Up-to-date self-study information is available at www.csbsju.edu/2008accreditation/.

Physical Plant Director Named at Saint John's

Bill Boom has been named director of Saint John's Physical Plant. He will have campus-wide responsibilities, serving as Physical Plant director for both the University and Abbey and reporting to Dick Adamson and Br. Benedict Leuthner.

He joined the Saint John's community in mid November. Prior to this appointment, he served as vice president of project administration for Donlar Construction.

Rogers to Continue to Lead International Education

Joe Rogers will continue to serve as interim director of international education while a national search for a permanent director is put on hold, CSB/SJU Provost Rita Knuesel has announced.

The recent announcement of the \$5.3 million gift from Tom Petters establishing the Petters Center for Global Education has opened an opportunity for the administration and faculty to envision

new opportunities in international education, she said.

"As we began to think about the structure and function of the Petters Center, it became clear that we are not in a position to conduct a national search for a director of international education as that position has been previously understood. We are only beginning to develop a clear vision of how the Petters Center will be structured and how its work will interact with our study abroad programs," she said.

Knuesel said attention will focus on clarifying faculty responsibilities (curricular design at each of the 16 study abroad sites, for example), and administrative responsibilities (negotiating housing contracts at those sites, developing liability standards for all international travel programs, and purchasing "buy-forward" foreign currency contracts, for example).

Knuesel praised Rogers' efforts, in cooperation with Patrick Jacobson-Schulte, in creating a "robust and transparent budgeting model for all 16 semester-long programs." In addition, working with the CIE staff of Sharon Schmitt, Peggy Retka and Merry Hoppert, he has brought stability and organization to the administration of study-abroad programs, she said.

Currently, Rogers is working with his faculty advisory council, Phil Kramer and APSAC on an assessment and program review for each study abroad program.

At the end of this semester, the Center for International Education will move from its present location on the first floor of the Quad at SJU to the ground floor of Main at CSB. The CIE will have more space at CSB, including adjacent classroom and meeting rooms that can support pre- and post-travel programming, and it will be better positioned to work closely with the Petters Center at CSB, Knuesel said.

Looking ahead, Knuesel said her office will engage a wide range of faculty, staff and administrators in conversations about the structure and function of the Petters Center.

“We will pay special attention to how our study abroad programs will work with the Petters Center to best serve present and future students and faculty in the increasingly globalized world in which they will learn and work.”

Baenninger Announces Personnel Changes

CSB President MaryAnn Baenninger has announced some personnel changes and management restructuring at the college.

Jim Schumann, CSB director of security, will serve as interim director of facilities while Jim Fredricks takes an extended leave of absence. Schumann will assume all of Fredricks' responsibilities in facilities while retaining responsibility for campus security.

Sonja Gidlow will serve in the new position of interim executive director of auxiliary operations. This area will encompass Culinary Services, Bookstore, Events and Conferencing, Duplication and Mail and Telecommunications. Gidlow will continue in the role of chief of staff in the President's Office.

Baenninger said that she will re-evaluate this structure at the end of fiscal year 2008 and again in December 2008 to determine its effectiveness.

Eighth Annual Asian Studies Residency Features Two Specialists

The eighth annual Asian Studies Residency at CSB/SJU focused on Southeast Asia with specialists John and Martha Butt visiting the campuses Nov. 13-14. John Butt, an ordained Presbyterian missionary trained at Harvard, teaches religion at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and is senior advisor at Payap's Institute for Religion, Culture and Peace. Martha Butt is vice president for international programs at Payap. In that capacity, she has developed extensive study abroad opportunities as well as internship, teaching and service

learning programs. The Butts have lived and worked in Thailand for over three decades.

The residency program brings specialists on Asia and Asian America to campus to help the Asian Studies Program improve its curricular offerings and enhance its efforts to provide study, internship, service learning, teaching and other volunteer opportunities in Asia and Asian America. To this end, the residents meet with students, faculty, staff, monastics and members of the off-campus community during a two-day period.

The Butts met with the Asia Club, officials from a number of campus entities, Asian studies faculty, and members of the monastic communities. They also addressed the St. Cloud Rotary Club.

CSB Soccer Honored For Academics

The CSB soccer team concluded the 2007 season with a 15-6 overall record and took its success off the pitch and into the classroom. Coach Kate McNeil's Blazers were honored as one of the nation's top academic teams by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA). CSB posted a team grade point average of 3.30 on a 4-point scale.

A total of seven MIAC men's and women's soccer teams were recognized by the NSCAA. The NSCAA recognized a total of 406 college soccer programs (111 men's teams, 295 women's teams) in all NCAA and NAIA divisions.

SJU Senior Named Academic All-American

SJU senior safety Kevin Boegel was named to the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America College Division First Team on Nov. 29.

A 2007 All-MIAC second team selection, Boegel led the Johnnies with 87 tackles (37 solo) and four interceptions this season. A biology/pre-medicine major with a 3.91 GPA, Boegel was a

two-time Academic All-District first team selection.

Saint John's (10-2 overall, 7-1 MIAC) ended its season with a 37-7 loss at Central, Iowa in the second round of the NCAA Division III playoffs on Nov. 24. The Johnnies made their 16th postseason appearance in the last 23 years and 18th appearance in the NCAA Division III playoffs. This year's 10-2 overall record marks SJU's 21st consecutive winning season and 40th straight season without a losing record.

In the Media

Aubrey Immelman, CSB/SJU associate professor of psychology, was quoted in a Dec. 19 Associated Press article, "Yes, There's Crying in Politics."

Petters Auditorium at CSB was mentioned in a Dec. 19 KARE-11 News Extra segment, "Minnesota's Nutcracker Fantasy."

Jody Terhaar, CSB dean of students, was quoted in a Dec. 19 St. Cloud Times article, "St. Joseph gets tough on rentals."

Nicholas Truso, SJU junior, was featured in a Dec. 17 St. Cloud Citizen Times article, "St. John's student receives volunteer award."

Gene Garver, CSB/SJU professor of philosophy, was featured in a Dec. 16 St. Cloud Times article, "Chasing their dreams: Extreme athletes push boundaries."

CSB/SJU Fine Arts Programming was featured in a Dec. 13 St. Cloud Times article, "Follow the fantasy."

Derek Larson, CSB/SJU associate professor of history and environmental studies program director, was quoted in a Dec. 13 St. Cloud Times article, "Lightening the load."

Annette Atkins, CSB/SJU professor of history, was featured in a Dec. 12 Minneapolis Star Tribune article, "The state we're in." She also was featured in a Dec. 6 MinnPost.com article, "History and the pursuit of happiness: Annette Atkins tells it like it was in 'Creating Minnesota.'"

Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement was mentioned and the McCarthy Lecture was featured Dec. 10 on the Minnesota Public Radio "Midday" program, "A look back at Eugene McCarthy." The center also was mentioned in a Dec. 9 Minneapolis Star Tribune editorial, "A merger that would benefit Minnesotans."

Nicky Carpenter, HMML board member and former SJU regent, was featured in a Dec. 10 St. Cloud Citizen Times article, "Former SJU board member Carpenter receives philanthropy award."

MaryAnn Baenninger, CSB president, was featured in a Nov. 30 St. Paul Pioneer Press commentary piece, "Getting full value from study-abroad programs."

Faculty/Staff News

Rita Knuesel, CSB/SJU provost, and **Chris Kimball**, provost at California Lutheran University, worked with 40 new CAOs in mentoring workshops Nov. 3-6 at the National Institute for Chief Academic Officers and Chief Financial Officers Conference held in Philadelphia.

In addition, Knuesel and **Sue Palmer**, CSB vice president of finance, led two discussion groups on the topics "Advantages of Having a Budget Analyst Reporting to the CAO and CFO" and "A Collaborative Approach to Benefits Package Management."

Joe DesJardins, associate provost and academic dean, recently conducted a workshop on "Teaching Business Ethics" for the Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). AACSB, the international accrediting agency for collegiate schools of business, designed the workshop to help business school faculty meet new accrediting standards for teaching business ethics. Over 40 faculty from 35 colleges and universities attended the two-day workshop held at the University of Richmond.

Fred de Sam Lazaro and **Nikki See** of UTS traveled to Sweden in November to report on the emerging debate in that country on immigration and refugee policy. Sweden is the largest haven outside the Middle East for refugees from the conflict in Iraq. The reports were broadcast on PBS' "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" and "Religion and Ethics Newsweekly" and can be viewed in streaming video on cbsju.edu/undertoldstories

Once again de Sam Lazaro anchored PBS' "Religion and Ethics Newsweekly" from studios in Washington D.C. The program, carried at 9 a.m. Sundays on Twin Cities Public Television, aired Dec. 30.

In January, the UTS team will travel to Bangladesh, a nation recovering from a devastating cyclone. Segments will air on PBS programs as well as National Public Radio on relief efforts, long-range concerns about climate change and, separately, a program to control tuberculosis.

Richard Bohr, CSB/SJU professor of history and director of Asian studies, provided a historical context for Japan's 1937-45 occupation of China during a panel presentation on Nov. 28, following the Walker Art Center's premier of the documentary film "Nanking." The film traces the events of the Japanese attack on Nanking (now spelled Nanjing), China's capital, which began on Dec. 13, 1937, and lasted for seven weeks. As many as 350,000 Chinese civilians and soldiers were killed and up to 80,000 Chinese women raped. The film focuses on the efforts of 14 American missionaries and a German Nazi party member to create an international safety zone which protected 20,000 Chinese from the onslaught. Eye-witness diaries, letters and film footage of these foreigners forms the basis of our knowledge of what happened in Nanking, Bohr said.

The film was inspired by "The Rape of Nanking," a best-selling 1997 book by the young Chinese American author Iris Chang, who died in 2004 at the age of 36. Her parents, Chinese refugees

from war-torn China who both obtained Harvard Ph.D.'s, are carrying on her work of bringing the Nanjing tragedy to world attention in hopes of preventing further atrocities of its kind. They spoke on the panel about the genesis of their daughter's book and its importance on this 10th anniversary of its publication and the 80th anniversary of the Nanjing tragedy.

Bohr also presented a two-part lecture, "China and Us in the 'Asian Century': A Christian Perspective," Oct. 24 and 31, at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

Manju Parikh, CSB/SJU professor of political science, was elected president of the Minnesota Political Science Association, and Professor **Neal Allen** was elected to the board during the association's annual meeting Nov. 10, at St. Olaf College. At the conference, Professor **James Read** spoke on a panel about "Promoting Democracy: Finding New Theory, and Remembering the Old Theory We've Forgotten" and Professor **Gary Prevost** spoke on "U.S. Democracy Promotion in Latin America: The Cases of Cuba and Venezuela." In addition, nine students (**Alexa Gallet**, **Benjamin Hieserich**, **Caitlin McKeown**, **Jill Van Havermaet**, **Kathryn Kottenbrock**, **Luke Fischer**, **Matthew Steele**, **Rachael Smith** and **Amanda Benedict**) gave poster presentations of their senior theses.

Fr. Anthony Ruff, OSB, CSB/SJU associate professor of theology and SJU SOT, presented a paper, "Chant Melodies: Text-Based or Not?" on Nov. 21 at the University of Cambridge, England, and led the seminary of the graduate students in medieval musicology on the following day.

Recently all five CSB residence directors attended the UMR-ACUHO conference in Rochester. This is a conference for the Upper Midwest Region of the Association of College and University Housing Officers. **Shelby Wentworth**,

RD for Corona and Regina Halls, has been active for the past two years in UMR-ACUHO as a member of the Diversity Action Team. **Sarah Meiser**, RD for Brian and Margretta Halls, has been active this past year as a member of the Programming Board.

At the conference, Wentworth and Meiser presented on the millennial generation RA. Meiser did a second presentation on CSB Residential Life's Sophomore Year Experience program, and **Jessie Sandoval**, RD for Apartments and Houses, presented on incorporating yoga and balance into the busy lives of housing professionals. Based upon peer review, Sandoval's presentation was selected as one of the Top Five Programs at the conference.

Diane Veale Jones, professor of environmental studies, presented "Food and Religion/Spirituality" Nov. 29 in St. Cloud, as part of the Whitney Senior Center's Humanities series. She addressed four rituals of faith/spirituality: fasting, food prohibitions, food/eating recom-

mendations and ethical eating.

She also made a presentation on the "Farm to School Program" on Nov. 1 in Holdingford, to the local chapter of the Minnesota School Nutrition Association. The purpose of the program is to connect schools to local farms with the goals of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, connecting children to the local food system, providing health and nutrition education, and supporting local small farmers. She was accompanied by Kristina Cibuzar, first-year and environmental studies student worker. Kristina collaborated on the research for the presentation and is involved in a project to implement the Farm to School Program at her high school, Environmental High School, Apple Valley.

Terri Barreiro, director, Donald McNeely Center for Entrepreneurship, gave two presentations at the National Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers Oct 3-5. She presented on the center's new EduCase, "Mississippi Topsoils" and a soon-to-be published one on Clemens

Perk. The focus was on reaching millennial students with multi-media. She also presented on "Effective Use of Volunteers in Centers."

She has been asked to give the EduCase presentation at the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship Conference in January.

Also, she was invited to represent a team of authors of a proposed chapter on E-scholars for a new book on entrepreneurial education strategies. She presented on that in mid November in Winston-Salem, N.C. The authors she represents are: Dr. Paul Marsnik, management faculty at CSB/SJU; Dr. Brooke Envick, management faculty at St. Mary's University in San Antonio; and Dr. Robin Anderson, dean of the business school, University of Portland.

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Dan Finn, professor of economics and theology and Clemens Chair in Economics and the Liberal Arts, drew parallels between the ABCU document and a recent proposal that provoked agitation on the faculty list-serve. The proposal, which would require candidates for tenure to write a statement showing how their work contributes to the mission statement, has been interpreted by some as a loyalty oath.

He, too, stressed the importance of the Benedictine value of listening to a variety in interpretations.

"We need to be more generous listeners. We're very begrudging with our listening," he said.

Annette Atkins, professor of history and head of the division of humanities, presented a perspective of the "loyal op-

position" and questioned to what extent the institutions measure up to their ideals.

"Some of what we say about Benedictine hospitality has not been my experience," she said.

Arguing that values are more apparent in action than in words, she declared that, at CSB and SJU, the bus schedule is worshiped and e-mail reigns.

"We don't schedule a common time to be together," she said.

Speaking of the importance of the life of the mind, she said, "We have to put that at the center of what we do."

During discussion, participants compared the stresses of the work day with the institutional ideals. The demands to measure outcomes, for example, overwhelm efforts to achieve the stated goal of transformation, one said.

With self-identified faith traditions ranging from cradle and converted Catholics, to Methodists and Congregationalists, participants explored links between contemporary Church hierarchy and suspicions about the mission statement proposal. In an effort to reconcile concerns about academic freedom and the perceived threat posed by the ABCU document, one participant reminded everyone that the tradition of the Benedictines precedes Roman Catholic Canon Law.

A link to the ABCU document may be accessed at the Koch Web page: <http://www.csbsju.edu/koch/programs/default.htm> Click on "more info," under the subheading "Discussion Series: Engaging the Tradition."

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

Events Calendar

SPRING 2008

Feb. 15–16, The SJU Center for Men's Leadership and Service: Fifth Annual Conference on the College Male, "Calling College Men: Identity, Professions and Leadership for the Common Good." Highlights: Annual Father/Son Luncheon, meeting of 14 colleges, 10 high schools and a research and theory team of national experts to inaugurate a project funded by the Lilly Endowment to increase college men's participation rates in volunteering. This is a two-year project that will be a part of the next two conferences and will fund pilot projects and identify best practices and a theoretical model for what works with college men and why. Report from the Wabash National Study of the Liberal Arts on the ways college men learn. Panel of Wabash, Morehouse and Saint John's men's colleges.

Feb. 27, Global Awareness and Latino/Latin American Studies: Edward Greaves, St. Cloud State University, "The Role of Social Movements in Michelle Bachelet's Chile." (Campus contact: Gary Prevost)

March 5–6, Global Awareness Lecture Series: Professor Anas Malik (Campus contact: Manju Parikh)

March 27, Koch Chair in Catholic Thought and Culture: Dr. Anne Patrick, William H. Laird Professor of Religion and Liberal Arts, Carleton College, Northfield, MN (Campus contact: S. Ephrem Hollermann)

April 3, The Latino/Latin American studies program: Rodrigo Moreno, professor at Adolfo Ibáñez University in Chile, will speak on religion in the public sphere in Latin America. 7-9 p.m. (place TBA)

April 8–10, Global Awareness Lecture Series: Professor Fawzia Afzehl Khan. Public lecture on April 9. (Campus contact: Manju Parikh)

April 10–11, Changing Faces: Intercultural Ministry and Hospitality: Dr. Shawn Copeland, Boston College, (Campus contact: Marian Diaz) Gorecki Dining and Conference Center, CSB

April 11–12, CSB/SJU Undergraduate Mathematics Conference: Professor Joe Gallian, University of Minnesota, Duluth, and MAA president. Student talks, Friday, 7-8 p.m. and Saturday, 9-10:30 a.m., (Campus contact: Kris Nairn) Peter Engle Science Center

April 21, Peter Scoblic, executive editor of *The New Republic* and author of the forthcoming *U.S. Versus Them: How a Half Century of Conservatism Has Undermined America's Security* (Viking, 2008) will speak at 7:30 p.m., Stephen B. Humphrey Theater, SJU. (Campus contact: Nick Hayes)

April 23, Academic Day: Natalie Angier, Pulitzer Prize winner and best-selling author (Campus contact: Joe DesJardins)