

Summer 2009

Summer 2009: Caring for creation

St. Norbert College

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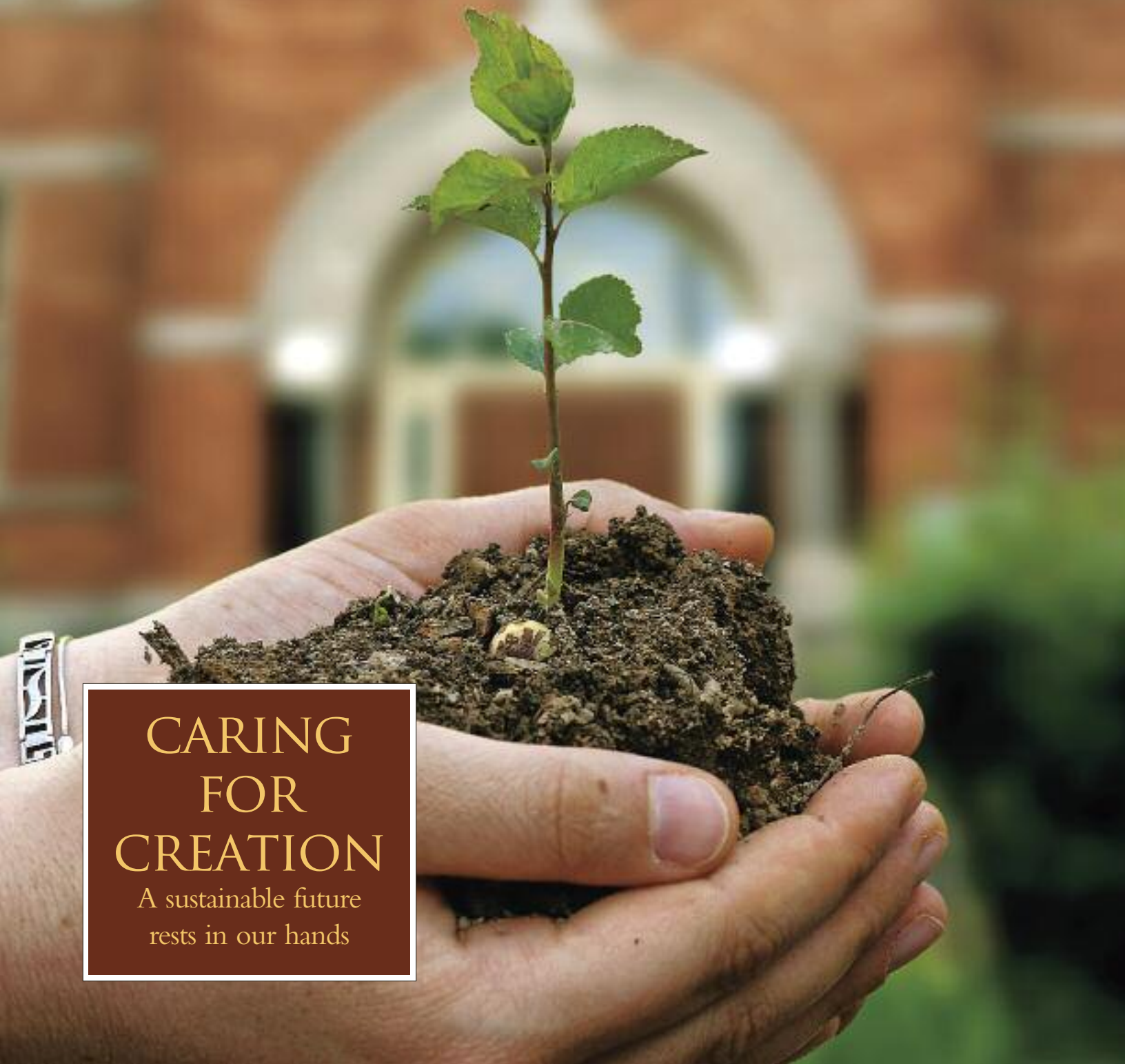
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ST. NORBERT COLLEGE

M A G A Z I N E

summer 2009 | volume 41 | number 2



CARING FOR CREATION

A sustainable future
rests in our hands



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On the cover:

Wherever the Norbertine order has sent them, its members have looked for ways to meet the needs of the community around them. The charism of the order itself, consistent with Catholic social teaching, calls for a careful stewardship of the earth. No surprise, then, that environmental education and sustainability is such a natural concern for a college like St. Norbert.



An environment of excellence

College President Thomas Kunkel

Lew Pullen dropped by my office the other day. That's not unusual, because Lew – our manager of mechanical systems – comes by quite a bit. And usually when he does, he has a new idea in mind.

This time, Lew reported on an exciting innovation he'd just seen: a state-of-the-art, clean incinerator that has the potential to dramatically reduce the waste we typically haul off to a landfill. It would be a major investment for us – the price tag Lew quoted made my heart skip, and not in the good way. But I'm intrigued, and in any case I'm delighted Lew is out there scouting the possibilities.

This issue of St. Norbert College Magazine highlights the many efforts the campus is making to be a responsible steward of our energy and environmental resources. A related story about Lew on page 11 describes him as a kind of "treasure hunter" of energy savings, and that is most apt. Certainly I've never met anyone who brings such infectious zeal to the cause of sustainability as Lew does.

Indeed, Lew generates so much energy himself it's a shame we can't figure how to get the excess onto the power grid.

With Lew and other like-minded campus citizens leading the way, St. Norbert has taken dozens of steps to reduce energy use and waste. These range from low-tech (eliminating trays from the cafeteria, which reduces water consumption and food waste) to high-tech (we participate in an innovative Integrys program in flex-time power usage).

Lew personally has changed countless light bulbs around campus to energy-efficient varieties, and he's even investigating wind-power options for us.

Of course, such measures are practical – energy efficiency improves our bottom line. But "greening" the campus is also the right thing to do, an activity consistent with our Norbertine commitment to the larger community, and with the Catholic commitment to social justice for all. We also believe it's imperative that higher education be in the sustainability forefront. As every parent knows, if you don't practice what you preach, the lesson is lost.

That's why I'm proud that St. Norbert College, thanks to my predecessor **Bill Hynes**, was an early signatory to the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. Under this nationwide effort, campuses measure their "carbon footprint" – the energy they traditionally have expended to function – and then commit to ways to significantly reduce that impact. The idea is to become, in time, carbon-neutral.

Our participation in the Climate Commitment is spearheaded by one of our most talented faculty members, geography professor and environmentalist **Mark Bockenbauer**. He has been ably assisted by such colleagues as **Sr. Sally Ann Brickner**, longtime director of our Peace and Justice Center, and recent graduate **Stacy Szczepanski**, who led our eight-week Recyclemania program.

And needless to say, Lew Pullen is right there with them.

The challenge of weaning ourselves from energy addiction is daunting. But I have no doubt that, with Lew and his friends on the case, St. Norbert College will get there – and maybe, in the process, help show others the way. ♣



Reflecting the mission statement of the college, St. Norbert College Magazine links the college's past and present by chronicling its academic, cultural, religious and co-curricular life.

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Relocation does not halt photo tradition

This past January, the return from Christmas break left some student observers wondering where the Abbot Pennings statue – a focal point on campus – had gone. But four months later, and with some reason to celebrate, seniors found him safe as could be.

On Jan. 9, the statue of Abbot Pennings was moved from its historic position outside Todd Wehr to its new home inside the Mulva Library, then under construction.

But what about the long-running tradition of graduating seniors posing alongside the abbot for a commemorative photo before departing the campus? The college, not about to stand in the way of its seniors and a beloved custom, arranged with the construction company for a pardon-our-dust photo opportunity for seniors, along with a sneak preview of the new library, the Friday before Commencement.

With the opening of the new library this summer, the abbot will once again be a part of the comings and goings of St. Norbert campus life – he just won't have to brave the elements anymore.

Recital provides fresh platform for new student composers

Now in its second year, the Fresh Ink concert, a recital of new music, pursues well-deserved recognition for the best of St. Norbert's

 **Web Extra**
You can hear new compositions from this year's concert at snc.edu/go/magazine

student-composers. The spring semester event is designed to showcase original compositions before an audience.

"The world of music is made up of performers, composers, historians and theorists," says **Linda Cook** (Music). "Many times only the performers get to showcase their talents. We wanted to change that at SNC."

Students auditioning to be included in the recital were required to perform their pieces and submit a finished score. Faculty members then based their final selections on the quality of the piece, the level of the performance and an effort to incorporate as wide a variety of composers and types of compositions as possible for the concert.

Graham Marlowe '09, who collaborated on two featured compositions (one with **Justin Wrzesinski '10** and one with **Chase Thyssen '10**) feels that composition is an essential part of a musician's development. "Writing music helps the music student to more deeply understand what they've learned in regards to theory, history and their own selves," he says.

The six original scores selected were

performed by student musicians at the April 28 concert. Marlowe says of his piece titled "A Fleeting Daydream," "The sweet, summery key territory of the piece was chosen to most clearly convey the image of a fleeting daydream, one we must snap out of against our will – though not begrudgingly."

Kevin McGillivray '12 deems his piece, "Playgrounds," "a musical celebration of play, creativity and imagination."

Other pieces on the night's program included Marlowe and Thyssen's "Hopeful for a Future"; "Maestro Muffet" by **Paul Halverson '10**; "Rite of Passage" by **Jackie Short '11**, **Doug Cassel '12**, **Danielle Schroth '11**, **Melissa Patz '11** and **Jordan Kabat '12**; and "Dancing on the Water" by **Aria Glielmi '11**.



Justin Wrzesinski '10, at the piano, and Graham Marlowe '09 premiere an original composition.

New master's program to start this fall

A new Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree program that starts this year will be one of only two such in the state of Wisconsin.

With a bachelor's degree and intellectual curiosity its only prerequisites, the program will enable students to maintain their careers while pursuing their post-graduate studies. Classes will be scheduled on a part-time basis for an anticipated average completion time of three years. Instead of focusing on one or two specific fields, courses will provide students with an opportunity to improve their intellectual knowledge and analytical skills.

They will start out with introductory courses addressing current questions in liberal studies and intellectual history, and then choose courses from the following five areas of emphasis: classical perspectives; American perspectives; international perspectives; diverse perspectives; and ethics and liberal studies.

The M.L.S. will build on the core strengths of St. Norbert College, according to **Howard Ebert**, director of the new program.

"St. Norbert is dedicated through its history to the liberal arts," says Ebert. "We have outstanding faculty who are known nationally for their teaching and research in a vast array of areas."

"The program is in line with the Norbertine tradition and, like Abbot Pennings before us, we are trying to respond to the needs of the local community."



Top: Soon-to-be graduates proceed from the Campus Center.

Above left: Dominique Carter '09 collects congratulations after the ceremony. Carter majored in chemistry; Stephanie Birmingham '09 celebrates her achievements. She majored in political science.

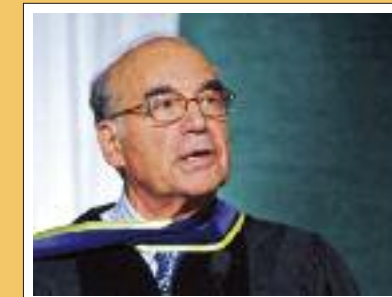
Above center: Alex Noskowiak '09 and Kayte O'Brien '09, newly graduated, enjoy the closing moments of the ceremony that ushered their class into the world.



Brian Fischer '09, brand new bachelor of science.



Schuldes Sports Center welcomes a capacity crowd.



Speaker Haynes Johnson told the graduates he saw their generation playing a leading role in a new age of reform. He charged them to write the next chapter in American history.

COMMENCEMENT 2009

There were **438** candidates for baccalaureate degrees and **5** candidates for master's degrees

The commencement speaker was **Haynes Johnson**, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and commentator

Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees were conferred on **James and Julie-Anne Kress**, **Patricia Brash McKeithan '71** and Haynes Johnson

The student Commencement speaker was **Brian Fischer '09**

 **Web Extra**
An online photo album from the celebration of the Commencement of the Class of 2009 can be found at snc.edu/go/magazine

Students take up residence in Gries Hall

Next year's juniors and seniors are already enjoying the apartment-style accommodations at the Father Eugene E. Gries, O.Praem., Residence Hall. The newest building dedicated on campus opened at the beginning of summer so students could take up residence right away.

This new housing option, located across from the Schuldes Sports Center, is designed to meet the needs of seniors as they prepare to transition from campus housing into post-graduation life. It offers 144 single rooms in apartment-style units for four, and the building also has its own workout facilities and a

reflection lounge.

The residence hall has been named in honor of a lifelong friend and supporter of St. Norbert College. The long affiliation the **Rev. Gene Gries, O.Praem., '62** has enjoyed with the college has included terms as dean of students, trustee and pastor of Old St. Joe's.

"This honor came out of the blue and I am deeply humbled," says Gries, whose 10-year service on the board of trustees ended last year. Gries, who now lives with the Santa Maria de la Vid Norbertine Community in New Mexico, returned to campus for the May 18 dedication.



The Rev. Gene Gries, O.Praem., '62 enjoys the dedication ceremonies alongside trustee Mike Van Asten '75 (right). Behind them, President Tom Kunkel (left) and Ryan Pavlik '09.

Unique altar defines a contemplative space

Before he became a furniture craftsman, one of David Orth's artistic outlets was through his church's worship committee. "If a cross was needed, I'd build one and bring it to church," he says. "That's kind of how I got started."

It's no surprise, then, that Orth was commissioned to create a unique piece for the recently opened reflection lounge in Gries Hall. Orth, pictured here installing his bronze altar, designed it to capture both flow and mass. "They're kind of opposite, and I was trying to find a sweet spot between them," he says.

That balance, he says, imbues this particular work with "a little hope that even the parts of us that are heavy and weighty can find fluidity and movement." It's a symbolism appropriate to an informal but restful student gathering space that Orth describes as "a place in between their everyday experiences."



Artist David Orth (left) works with the Rev. Jim Neilson, O.Praem., '88 to position the altar.

A long, sweet love



Our warmest congratulations to **Dr. Francis Vande Loo '35** and his wife, Cecelia, who celebrated the 70th anniversary of their wedding this June.

The couple, who live in De Pere, welcomed home their seven children and spouses for the occasion and the whole family attended Mass together at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Among the 16-strong family group were six alumni of the college: **Dr. Vande Loo, Pat (Vande Loo) Hogan '64, Ron Vande Loo '67, Sue (Vande Loo) Pauly '69, Chas Pauly '69 and Jeff Vande Loo '84.**

Causes for celebration mark the start of the new academic year

Aug. 27 sees the dedication of the new Mulva Library, timed to coincide with Convocation, the all-campus celebration that welcomes the student body back to St. Norbert at the start of the academic year.

The dedication takes place at 2 p.m., and all are welcome.

Just a few weeks later, Sept. 19 brings SNC Day, a new celebration in conjunction with the city of De Pere's Fallfest. The whole campus will be open to the public, with a daylong program of events designed to provide great entertainment as well as to showcase the best that St. Norbert has to offer.

The gospel of green

By Drew Van Fossen
Director of Communications and Design

What I knew as a young boy was that which formed the boundaries of my existence. I knew that 10,500-foot Mount Haggin rose up and up from my back door, a granite sentinel along the Continental Divide. It presented the proverbial picture of the Rocky Mountains – inspiring, beautiful and steadfast. Nestled



along each of its ridges lay crystalline alpine lakes, teeming with trout and surrounded by giant boulders and scrappy alpine fir.

On the opposite side, out my front door, stood another sentinel, the Big Stack – the smokestack for the copper smelter. At 585 feet, it was the world's tallest freestanding masonry structure. It was 60 feet in diameter at the top and its sole purpose was to carry three to four million cubic feet of exhaust gases from the smelter into the air each minute, every hour of every day.

I was born and raised in the small smelter town of Anaconda, Montana. Anaconda existed to refine the copper ore that was mined 25 miles away in Butte, also known as "the richest hill on earth." In 1898, America was going electric, the mines in Butte were producing more than 40 percent of the world's copper, and names like Hearst, Rothschild and Rockefeller were clamoring to get their piece of the market.

By the time I came along more than a half-century later, the prosperity of America's greatest copper boomtowns was pretty much history and the extent of their damage to the environment were yet to be discovered.

Such was my early introduction to the argument between the economy and the environment. I liked the mountain because it was majestic and beautiful. I disliked the smokestack because its smoke made my mouth taste like sulfur. Yet, I was willing to accept the taste because all my friends' fathers worked at the smelter. This simple, childhood rationale was the precursor to the questions I would ask as an adult. Is it possible to have a deep, abiding reverence for both the Earth and for the means its people must use to survive (and prosper)? Can we be stewards of both resources and



Mount Haggin (left) and the Anaconda smelter stack. The smelter closed in 1981 and, along with the copper mines in Butte, was to become part of the largest Superfund cleanup area in the nation.

progress? Can we maintain an attitude of thankfulness and humility for our providence and for the land that supplies it?

Ultimately, we all face such questions. When we think of environmental degradation, the green movement and sustainability, we tend to go right to the macro level – world hunger, overpopulation; ecocatastrophes like global warming, desertification, deforestation, ozone holes, toxic waste and species extinction. These are big, weighty, complex issues, and it is easy, even expedient, to blame them on corporate greed, inept governments or some other faceless entity, and to stand in disbelief that any of us can really make a difference in moderating human impact on the earth.

The truth is, the vast majority of these issues are not a result of conscious decisions to destroy the environment, but rather of the actions of people who have not discovered a compelling reason to modify their thinking or behavior away from self-interest. In examining the problem, maybe we could start with the environment of our hearts.

Imagine an approach that relies on mutual esteem, trust, faith and responsibility. Imagine one of open dialogue, consultation and collaboration. Imagine a commitment to the well-being of others – lives lived after the model of Jesus Christ. This imagining is found in the avowed mission of St. Norbert College. That mission, aligned with the Catholic intellectual tradition, the liberal arts tradition and the charisma of the Norbertine order, make an admirable place to start.

From there, each of us can choose to be part of what C.S. Lewis called the "good infection," the life and love of Christ lived out in humility: in action toward our neighbors, one person at a time; but also in stewardship and care for our neighborhoods, in small incremental ways, one action at a time. This was Norbert's way, it was Christ's way and it is a good way. Through the good infection, complete healing can be possible even where great damage has been done. ✚



A place in CREATION

AS ITS CATHOLIC, NORBERTINE HERITAGE
IMPLORES, ST. NORBERT COLLEGE HAS BEGUN
TO COLOR ITSELF A DEEPER SHADE OF GREEN

By Lisa Strandberg

Norbert of Xanten never drank bottled water. The citizens of his namesake campus do, though, collectively draining more than 600 plastic bottles every three days – just one of the findings from this past fall’s Recyclemania program.

Though Norbert might not have anticipated the relatively new problems of consumerism and climate change, he could offer an ancient solution in keeping with the charism of the order he founded: Look to the community around you and meet the needs you see there.

A growing body of students, faculty and staff – Norbertines, too – is applying that credo more broadly than ever before. Recognizing the whole of creation as their community, they have begun to collaborate, on the grounds of the college and beyond, to meet the planet’s need for gentler living.

“The idea of *communio* and community is that we take care of each other, and one way we can take care of each other is to walk more lightly,” says **Wendy Scattergood** (Political Science), who teaches an upper-level course in environmental policy. “It fits so well with the Norbertine philosophy of being good stewards.”

That philosophical fit doesn’t make fostering an environmental mindset on campus easy, however. “Big institutions are kind of like ships. It takes a while to get them to turn,” says **Mark Bockenbauer** (Geography).

Fortunately, those at the helm have begun to lean on the wheel. Recent developments on campus have brought environmental crusaders of all stripes together and their combined efforts are seeing a gain in momentum.

BRINGING CATHOLIC TEACHING TO LIFE

It’s not just the Norbertine influence that gives meaning to the green movement at St. Norbert College. Denominational actions and attitudes play their part as well.

“One of the tenets of Catholic social teaching is care of creation,” says **Sister Sally Ann Brickner, O.S.F., ’67** (Peace and Justice).

During the 2006-07 academic year, the Peace and Justice Center elected to embrace that simple principle more fully. Under

its influence, the center played a role in bringing to the attention of then president **William Hynes** the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, an effort to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions and equip society, through education, to stabilize the planet’s climate.

Hynes became one of the compact’s charter signatories and set St. Norbert College on the path to a lofty goal. The commitment calls for each institution to develop “a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible.”

The commitment further implores presidents to put in place “institutional structures to guide the development and implementation of the plan.” Thus arose the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC), chaired by Bockenbauer, comprising a campus-spanning membership charged with crafting a climate-neutrality plan by the end of 2009.

JOINING FORCES FOR CHANGE

The new committee connected for the first time those across campus who were already making environmentalism an individual priority. “Since there are students, faculty and staff on the committee, we’re able to connect different sectors of the campus,” says Environmental Club officer and ESAC member **Stacy Szczepanski ’09**.

She says, for example, that she has been heartened to learn that some behind-the-scenes campus staffers have long approached their jobs with sustainability in mind: “I didn’t realize how much work the facilities department has been doing for so many years.”

The man leading the charge to squeeze both cost and carbon emissions from the campus’s \$1.6 million energy budget – mechanical systems manager **Lew Pullen** – likewise agrees that his ESAC interactions with faculty added tremendous value.

Now that the committee exists, Pullen says, faculty members “seem to be all of a sudden coming out and saying ‘What can we do to help?’ or ‘Here’s what we’re thinking about this,’ or ‘Have you thought about this for this next project?’”

Indeed, says Bockenbauer about the green front, “There are a lot of faculty on this campus who are ardently trying to teach and preach and to share ideas.”

Incorporation of sustainability concepts in curricular and co-curricular activities both upholds the college’s Norbertine tradition and comprises another element of the climate commitment’s reach – green education. To help drive that and other efforts, the ESAC’s climate-neutrality plan likely will recommend the creation of a full-time sustainability manager position. After all, says Brickner, “It’s a lot of work to continue to raise consciousness.”

In its inaugural year, the ESAC gathered data on purchased electricity, heating and cooling, and transportation to estimate the college’s present carbon footprint. The result – 6.8 metric tons of

greenhouse gas emissions per person per year – lands the institution well below the national average of 9.5 metric tons for four-year colleges, and squarely in the middle of its peer campuses.

“We were encouraged to see that the practices we are doing are working,” Szczepanski says.

Still, she admits that the college has a way to go. “There’s so much waste we generate, it’s crazy. We don’t feel responsible for it.”

Brickner agrees that instilling a sense of responsibility could have a positive impact. “We have to reach beyond the small circle that has been affected ... and really get other people animated and involved.”

Various initiatives across campus already contribute to that effort. For instance, arriving freshmen each receive a compact fluorescent lightbulb from the facilities department, a gift intended to remind new arrivals of their role in reducing energy consumption.

This year’s elimination of trays in the cafeteria also heightened

awareness of the need to conserve. According to **Melissa DaPra** (Dining Services), the move will save about 12,000 gallons of water and reduce food waste by more than 800 pounds each month.

By and large, students appreciate such measures. Of Dining Services’ initiative, **Tara Vanden Elsen ’09** says, “For a lot of the guys, it’s inconvenient because they have eight cups and 16 plates, but I think it’s worked just fine for everyone. It was just the first week of complaining, then realizing that it’s better for the environment and better for tuition costs, hopefully.”

As Vanden Elsen and many of her peers realize, eschewing convenience for the sake of the environment can yield personal benefits as well as communal ones. Such stewardship, spreading across the campus with increasing speed, seems set to change the college for the better – and would make Norbert of Xanten himself proud. ♣

 **Web Extra**
See new work in environmental ethics from Larry Waggle (Philosophy), at snc.edu/go/magazine

STEP-BY-STEP SUSTAINABILITY

With students, faculty and staff collaborating across the campus, St. Norbert College is making strides toward its ultimate sustainability goal – carbon neutrality. Far-seeing and commonsense efforts are making the difference. For instance, with help from a \$40,000 Focus on Energy grant, St. Norbert College replaced Schuldes Sports Center’s 250-watt metal halide light fixtures with T5 high-output fluorescent ones,

becoming only the second college in the country to use the technology. The change saves about \$1,700 per month in purchased electricity.

And, as a member of Integrys Energy Group’s Response Rewards program for institutional customers, the college responds to the firm’s requests for energy usage reductions during peak load periods. Staff turn off lights and adjust temperatures in six campus buildings as needed.

In exchange, Integrys cuts the rate for a portion of the college’s purchased electricity from approximately \$0.10 to \$0.0325 per kilowatt-hour. The mutually beneficial arrangement saves the campus up to \$15,000 per year and helps lessen the need for construction of new power plants.

Dining Services is awaiting budget approval to install a “food-erator” that will dehydrate cafeteria waste that cannot be composted, reducing its volume – and thus landfill costs and space consumption – by 90 percent.

And the college will conduct a feasibility study investigating construction of several wind turbines on college-owned land to offset its carbon emissions.

We keep learning, too. Eight students successfully applied to become an environmentally minded Intentional Learning Community in a Fourth Street campus house this fall. The group plans to plant its own garden, support local food markets and educate students in campus residence halls on greener living.

And, as part of the National Teach-In Day on global warming solutions, the Peace and Justice Center hosted Robert Gronski of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, who spoke on the Catholic moral imperative to address climate change and was interviewed for the college television show.

AS GREEN AS WE CAN BE

Their business has historically meant turning trees into information, so editors need to be particularly mindful of the environmental impact of their publications.

E-publications like the monthly newsletter @St. Norbert (subscribe at www.snc.edu/go/enevs) and the new online magazine (at www.snc.edu/go/magazine) are enabling us to bring rich media and online exclusive content to readers, with minimal cost to the environment and substantial cost-savings to boot.

The print magazine delivers good news, too. It is:

- printed on Forest Stewardship Council certified recycled-content paper from responsibly managed forests.
- printed with ink made of linseed-based oil, a formulated ink with organic materials that do not contain animal-based byproducts and contain less than 1 percent of volatile organic compounds.
- shipped in locally manufactured corrugated cartons made of 74 percent post-consumer waste material.
- delivered by an environmentally-conscious printing company that promotes fuel efficiency and uses renewable energy sources.

A TREASURE HUNTER ...

With the curiosity of a scientist, **Lew Pullen** (Facilities) searches for energy savings. When you step into Pullen’s unassuming office, in the southeast corner of the St. Norbert College heating plant, you might not notice the water-filled milk jugs lining his windowsill. That’d be a shame, because their reuse as a room-warming heat sink speaks volumes about the man who drove the campus’s green movement before it knew it had one.

As manager of mechanical systems, Pullen for years has monitored (and met) the campus’s annual energy budget. It’s a task he says the math major in him always has relished. Recently, though, he’s approached this objective with a mind for more than the bottom line. “Now we’re saving energy not to save money but because it’s the right thing to do,” he says.

It’s a mission Pullen pursues with enthusiasm, crediting the college’s leadership and facilities director **John Barnes** with encouraging him to experiment. “I’ve been given so much latitude in this job that I just go nuts. I go in all directions,” Pullen says.

“He does indeed have the zeal of a treasure hunter, like a kid in the backyard looking for Easter eggs,” says **Mark Bockenbauer** (Geography), chair of the college’s Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee and Pullen’s partner in spreading the sustainability word on campus.

Besides his impulse to do the right thing, Pullen says his quest for carbon neutrality is, quite simply, interesting and fun.

That’s all the more true now that his work with the ESAC has proven that he’s not a one-man operation. “The most fun for me has been to finally realize I’m not on an island by myself,” Pullen says. “I’ve been inspired by Mark [Bockenbauer] and the president [Thomas Kunkel] to get the word out, and I’m loving it.”



... AND A STUDENT WITH A MISSION

On the list of Friday night student hotspots, the dumpster cages beside Sensenbrenner Memorial Union rank pretty low for most people. But come week’s end, that’s just where you’re likely to find **Stacy Szczepanski ’09**, loading five-gallon pails filled with a total of 250 pounds of Dining Services’ food waste into a borrowed facilities van for transport to a composting site across the river in De Pere.

Szczepanski’s collaboration with students and staff to build this composting program, which now involves some 15 students, is but one illustration of her strong support of campus sustainability. Her interest in helping the Green Knights become greener took hold her freshman year with a “lightbulb moment” (no doubt of the compact-fluorescent variety) when she attended the Midwest Clean Energy Conference in Madison as a member of the college’s Environmental Club. “That was a turning point for me,” she says. “A lot of students there were talking about how they were getting renewable energy on their campuses.”

The next year she set out to do the same, undertaking an independent study course to investigate the placement of solar panels on the Campus Center. More recently, she led the college’s eight-week Recyclemania competition and gathered data, along with other members of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee, to calculate the campus’s carbon footprint. As a last hurrah following her graduation, she and **Valerie Gray ’11** presented to the board of trustees the results of their feasibility study (page 14) for a greener John Minahan Science Hall.

“She has been fabulous,” says **Sister Sally Ann Brickner, O.S.F., ’67**, director of the Peace and Justice Center, which has spearheaded many of the college’s green initiatives. “She puts untold hours toward it.”

This fall she will continue her work at American University in Washington, D.C., where she’ll pursue a master’s degree in sustainability. Her goal: to land a job with a college or university doing the work she fell in love with at her alma mater.





Earth watch

By Mike Dauplaise '84

One keeps a careful eye on the volcano of the moment, Alaska's Mount Redoubt; the other measures heat changes in the world's oceans as part of an initiative behind the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Al Gore in 2007. Read on for news of two alumni who go to work every day at the front line of scientific endeavor, where they find themselves engaged in research that is making headlines around the world.

Heather Bleick '03 was all set to pursue a business degree and work at her parents' world champion butter factory when her liberal arts education bore unexpected fruit during her sophomore year at St. Norbert. Bleick took an introductory geology course as a science elective, which changed the way she would view the physical world forever. Today, she works as a member of the Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) team that's studying and photographing Redoubt Volcano's eruption in Alaska for the U.S. Geological Survey. "I started seeing what Dr. Tim Flood was describing from our textbook all around me," Bleick recalls of that first class. "I would drive home and see glacial features and I thought, 'This is starting to get really interesting.'" Her adjusted career track took her to Vanderbilt University for graduate school and the study of ancient volcanoes, followed by jobs with the state of Virginia and the Friends of Acadia National Park in Maine, where she took photographs as a ridge runner. Armed with this experience, Bleick became one of only a handful of people under the age of 40 hired for the AVO's Anchorage office. She works with a team that monitors seismographs and webcams 24/7, and, more enjoyably, photographs Redoubt as it continues to spew steam and ash into the atmosphere. "Given there aren't many younger people here to fill the shoes of our veterans as they get ready to retire, my daily duties jump around," she says. "It's great to be able to draw in a lot of knowledge from what they know of this area. Alaska's geology is so much more complex than the lower 48. We have to get a helicopter for any field work we want to do, and we get gun training for the bears for our protection. It's quite an experience doing field work in such a large area and being in the unknown." The team of 50 scientists tracks approximately 130 active volcanoes in Alaska, which account for more than three-quarters of all U.S. active volcanoes. Redoubt sits in the Aleutian Range, about 110 miles southwest of Anchorage. "A lot of people have been

An ocean of change

One call to Tim Boyer '89 and you know all you need to know about his work: "I'm an oceanographer," his voicemail states. The message is there to differentiate him from a colleague of the same name, but it underscores that Boyer has moved on from his physics and math studies at St. Norbert to a new field of scientific endeavor. Boyer conducts research on ocean heat changes at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Ocean Climate Laboratory in Silver Spring, Md. He is part of a team of scientists that contributes to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report. The IPCC and Al Gore were honored in 2007 with the Nobel Peace Prize for creating an ever-broader informed

consensus on the connection between human activities and global warming. The IPCC publishes a report on the state of the climate, with forecasts, approximately every five years. "Creativity is just as necessary in science as in other fields," notes Boyer, who earned his graduate degree in oceanography from Old Dominion University. "There are so many surprises in the physical earth, and putting the pieces together is helped by having the flexibility of mind that comes from having a liberal arts education." Any change in the ocean's heat content leads to thermal expansion and a rise in sea level. Even a fraction of an inch change in sea level is a huge deal. Since the world is not seeing uniform change, Boyer and his colleagues collect data and make observations from key areas around the world. For example, the ocean is rising in the equatorial Pacific region, but the north Indian Sea has decreased over the past half-dozen years. One of the team's primary initiatives, in addition to making its own observations,



Web Extra
An extended article on Tim Boyer's work is available online at snc.edu/go/magazine

The study of ocean measurements took Tim Boyer '89 to Antarctica where he looked at krill populations critical to the food chain.

is the collection of oceanic and fisheries data from governments, navies and other entities around the world. Records from the former Soviet Union are proving invaluable. The Soviets collected a significant amount of data, but didn't have the resources to conduct research. In some areas, such as the Arctic Ocean off the coast of Murmansk, the Russians had been collecting data since the 1890s. "We work a lot with the Russians on joint research," Boyer says. "Thousands of measurements were recovered before they were lost. Without them, we couldn't make statements about change because we wouldn't have enough historical data."

doing this for 20 or 30 years all over the world, so they've seen these patterns before," Bleick says. "One good thing is, they don't always agree. It's good to have some disagreement to keep us on our toes in case things go a different way." Redoubt typically sends signals that it's preparing to release another large ash plume through seismic activity referred to as drum beats. The repeating event is likely caused by fluid trying to push through cracks in the rock subsurface. "It's similar to Old Faithful, only we're seeing it here every 30 seconds," Bleick explains. "It's a signal to us that says, 'Here it comes.'" While Bleick and her camera equipment are regulars on observation flights, a mid-March flight may have resulted in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Redoubt had been emitting steam into the atmosphere for some time, but the first signs of an eruption featuring ash particles occurred right in front of her eyes. "What I really like is going on the observation flights, and I feel pretty lucky to be up there for that event," Bleick says. "Even for the people that had been working here twenty-some years, not everyone gets to see the start of an eruption." Bleick's photos have appeared internationally on a variety of news agency web sites and other publications, including The Associated Press, Thomson Reuters and National Public Radio. Redoubt displayed an almost continuous eruption this spring that sent gas and ash emissions to the 15,000-foot level. One burst was powerful enough to send debris 65,000 feet into the atmosphere, which Bleick ranks as a 4 on an informal 10-point



Heather Bleick '03 on helicopter reconnaissance over Alaska.

severity scale. The AVO team has a list of places to call whenever a volcano in their region erupts, beginning with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security, the governor's office and the local Air Force base. Redoubt caused major concerns with its last big eruption cycle in 1989-90, when it caught a 747 airliner in its plume and caused all four engines to shut down. The pilot eventually was able to restart two engines and land the plane safely, but damage of \$80 million to the airplane alone provided all the evidence anyone needed that even a moderate volcano eruption can be a big deal. "This time," she says, "everyone's taking it very seriously." ❁

Faculty, students work together to formulate plans for a greener science facility

A green collaboration

By Lisa Strandberg

If the John Minahan Science Hall (JMS) currently sports a polyester lab coat, it seems poised to don an organic cotton one with its impending renovation. That's the hope of **Stacy Szczepanski '09**, **Valerie Gray '11**, **James Hodgson** (Biology) and **Michael Olson** (Physics), who collaborated during the past academic year to research the feasibility and benefits of a green science facility.

"A year or so ago, Stacy came to me with an idea for an independent study she wanted to do," Hodgson says of his student, an environmental policy major whom he had supported on similar projects in the past. "Then I got to thinking, 'Why don't we take this a step further?'"

Hodgson and Szczepanski involved Olson and Gray, a physics major, in the conversation, along with mechanical systems manager **Lew Pullen** (Facilities). Then the students dug in, pairing details on solar panel and residential wind turbine productivity with weather data from NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"Stacy did all the policy, and I got to do the science," Gray says.

While the study will continue with the placement of a weather station atop JMS this spring to measure actual conditions there, the students have estimated conservatively that, by placing solar panels and wind turbines on the JMS roof, the college could generate 43 percent of the building's electricity needs. That's

significant since its numerous computers and laboratories make it one of the campus's biggest energy hogs.

However, says Hodgson, making JMS green is "more than just an economic argument. It becomes the right thing to do in terms of what we say we are as an institution."

Szczepanski and Gray shared their concepts and calculations with the board of trustees in May to persuade them that the renovation's architects should be sustainability-focused up front. "For this project to be most beneficial, we need it to be green from the design phase," Szczepanski says.

The students assert that JMS is the perfect specimen for exploring renewable energy on campus. Says Gray, "It's the science building. If weird things are sticking out of it, that's OK. ... You can experiment on it. That's in the spirit of science."

Indeed, the JMS study considered the innovative educational opportunities that a green science facility would offer. "I foresee alternative energy devices on the roof coming down to some sort of monitoring system in the lobby," Hodgson says, indicating that it could display "what we're generating ourselves, what we're saving and what we're not generating in terms of carbon emissions."

"One of the things we want to do is to make it part of a learning thing both on campus and off campus," Gray says.

Campus sustainability champions envision even more for this renovation and for those that will follow. "Our overall goal with this whole project is to develop a green building standard for the whole college," Szczepanski says. "That would be the most beneficial way for us to improve the campus." ♣



Web Extra

Valerie Gray '11, left, and **Stacy Szczepanski '09**, discuss their plans for a greener science facility at "A Day of Celebration" in April. To hear more in Szczepanski and Gray's own words, go to snc.edu/go/magazine

Adventures in environmental science



Four professors share a major, a zest for field research – and a close call or two

By Doug McInnis

There is a feeling of being on edge that never quite goes away in grizzly country. A field trip that runs for weeks or months is a long time to be looking over your shoulder. **Nelson Ham** (Geology) first experienced that feeling of constant apprehension when his graduate work at the University of Wisconsin–Madison took him to Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park.

When scientists like Ham take to the field, they aren't looking for danger. They want to come home in one piece, and for

the most part, they are successful.

His work, like that of the three colleagues who teach with him in the interdisciplinary environmental science major, begins not in the clinical confines of the lab but out in the messy world, where they share space with grizzly bears, man-eating caimans and the forces of Nature.

These professors are united across their different fields by two things – a common passion for trying to unravel the mysteries of the natural world, and a certain taste for adventure.

Ham was in bear country to study how modern glaciers work, as a way to

understand how long-ago glaciers shaped the landscape of places like the upper Midwest. But as he worked, one eye was usually alert for the larger fauna. His canister of bear mace was always attached by a cord to his shirt, and it is visible in every photograph of him taken while he was there. "The park didn't allow us to carry firearms," Ham says.

The level of anxiety escalated whenever the team needed to restock their food supplies. That entailed a trip back to a base camp, where the summer's food stock was stored in bear-proof barrels. To get there, the team had to tunnel through a

thick blanket of alder bushes. “The fear was always there that there would be a bear coming toward us through the tunnel, or that there would be one standing there at the other end,” Ham says. They took turns being point man.

Usually, grizzlies will avoid people if they hear them coming. “We would sing children’s songs as loud as we could,” Ham recalls. “If a bear heard us, it would (hopefully) run in the other direction.”

The level of fear rose as well when they split up to do their research. “When you were alone, bears were the constant thing you thought about,” he says. From time to time, they would see the telltale signs that bears had been in the area – a paw print, or bits of uneaten fish.

In one stretch, rain fell for three weeks straight. During that

time, it was constantly foggy, he says, and that inspired still more fear. “You worried about running into a bear you couldn’t see.”

Two months passed without incident and they flew back to park headquarters on their final day. “I went out to the beach at park headquarters to read a book,” Ham remembers. “I heard grunting. Twenty yards away, a large bear and her cubs had wandered onto the beach.” Her cubs began to approach him out of curiosity. The mother reared up. It was the worst of situations; A mother bear is particularly likely to attack to protect her cubs.

“After two months in Alaska, I was going to get killed by a bear at park headquarters,” Ham says. “I was within a few seconds of her making the choice to charge – and you can’t outrun a charging bear.”

The bears backed off.

His field research runs from May through late November, by which time the weather is turning wintry. Even so, the work still needs to be done. “There’s always this balance as to whether it’s smart to be out on the lake versus how bad I want the data. Whenever I’m out there, I always picture the graph that I’m going to make with the sediment samples I’m collecting. I can see what the graph would look like if I have a gap in the data. Then I really feel compelled to get the sample.”

In November 2006, Poister headed a mile out from the shoreline of Trout Lake and tied his boat, a 14-foot flat-bottomed craft with narrow sides, to a buoy at the lake’s deepest point. He took sediment samples for 45 minutes, largely oblivious to the rising wind-whipped waves – until it became apparent that the boat was filling with water. “It was losing altitude fast,” he recalls. Poister started the outboard motor and zig-zagged to shore,

maneuvering the now low-riding craft nose-first into the waves to minimize water intake.

Later that day, as he prepared to go out again after draining the boat, he discovered just how close he had come to disaster. He pulled the motor’s starter cord. It ripped loose from the motor. It was the sort of break that couldn’t have been repaired out on the lake, and if it had happened earlier, he would have been stranded on a sinking boat in water just a few degrees above freezing.

Though he had worn his anti-hypothermia suit, he says it is a limited safeguard, too constrictive to swim easily. “They are really made to keep you afloat until somebody comes for you. But I was out there all alone that day. The boat would either have taken on too much water and sunk, or it would have blown to shore. I don’t know which.”

A trip diverted

The risks of fieldwork often stem from Mother Nature. But in many parts of the world, the biggest danger comes from our own species – from bandits, kidnappers, revolutionaries and drug traffickers. In that case, the best course of action is often a change of plans – especially when students are along.

On a trip in the late 1990s, as a group traveling with **James Hodgson** (Biology) arrived in Panama City, word awaited them that drug traffickers had moved into the area they were to visit. The traffickers had killed villagers there.

Hodgson quickly reset the itinerary for a more secure area. “I’d love to go to that part of Panama again on my own,” says Hodgson. “But I’ve never been back with the students.”

Hodgson didn’t, however, give up on Panama, and he continues to take students to safe parts of the country. “Being exposed to the world is the greatest classroom,” says Hodgson. The lessons he wants them to learn are only partly scientific.

“You get these students out in the native villages, and I know what’s running through their heads when they see them,” Hodgson says. “The villages are poor. The villagers make a subsistence living from the land. And the students want to know how people can be so happy and have so little. This makes them re-evaluate what happiness is all about.

“There are things I can’t teach them. But I can set a pathway for them to learn. These experiences will make an imprint on them that will affect the rest of their lives. It makes them begin to evaluate their own ecological footprint on the Earth – and it makes them ask, ‘Why do I have all this stuff?’ ”

A day on the lake

There is no guarantee of safety, even if you confine your research to Wisconsin. **David Poister** (Chemistry) takes to the water for his ongoing study of how sediment builds on lake bottoms. “This always involves getting in a boat, and that’s usually when the trouble starts,” he says.

He focuses on diatoms, one-celled organisms that add to the lake sediment when they die. The diatoms come in colonies; the bigger the colonies, the more that end up on the bottom. “I’m trying to figure out what causes the size of the colony to change.”



Flash flood

“There is always risk,” says **Anindo Choudhury** (Biology), who studies the relationships between hosts and parasites. “But you weigh the benefits against the risk. You say, ‘What are the chances of losing my life, or being injured?’

“I’ve had a colleague whose plane crashed in the Arctic,” he says. “I’ve had friends who’ve been confronted by bears.” While snorkeling in search of turtle habitat, one colleague came nose to nose with a caiman, a type of crocodile. Fortunately, the reptile was as startled as he was. The caiman raced in one direction, the researcher in the other.

Choudhury’s own brush with death came at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, as his research team slept on the banks of the Little Colorado River.

Early in the morning, he awoke to the sound of commotion. He looked down. The swollen river was running beneath his cot. A storm had struck upstream. With the walls of the canyon soaring nearly vertically just yards from the river’s edge, they were trapped in a bottleneck with the water rising fast.

The only way out was a helicopter rescue. However, “The helicopter is not going to fly at night unless they absolutely have to,” Choudhury says. The research team told the helicopter crew that they could probably hold out till early morning. While they waited, they perched atop a boulder. “It was a race against time,” he recalls.

The water never reached the point where it would have flushed them downstream. “But there was no way to know that at the time.”

Though he now knows the risks of field research, Choudhury has no regrets. “The rewards are amazing. All those harrowing

events aside, I would not trade my experience in the Grand Canyon for anything. I’ve seen the awesome power of nature at its most extreme. And I’ve seen things animals do in the wild that I would never have seen in the armchair of my home. It’s been an amazing life.” ♣



Tragedy, violence and commemorative rituals

Shadowed ground, sacred place

By Michael Lukens
Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies

The designation of sacred places in the memory of tragic and violent events, the shocking and uncommonly terrible moments of suffering and loss, is a universal drive, a quest to understand who we are and what we most value. In recent decades, there has been a resurgence of interest in the interconnection of historical memory and social identity. The relation of memory and identity is inevitably common in personal reflection. But it also has special relevance in the way we understand ourselves as associations, institutions, and in our cultural and national consciousness.

Kenneth Foote, a social geographer



Oklahoma City's Field of Empty Chairs Memorial was created to honor those who were killed in the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

from the University of Colorado at Boulder, brought a distinctive dimension to this topic in his spring semester lecture, part of the Killeen Chair lecture series for this academic year, on the theme "Sacred Spaces: Marking the Extra/Ordinary."

Intertwined in Foote's address were a number of recalled images of physical sites, each of which vibrates with remembered suffering and a residual sacral quality. Yet, Foote reminds us that our national memories are constantly dynamic, since these memorial places change in meaning through time, often reflecting as much of our present consciousness as the initial interpretation of the tragic event.

The American quest for national identity, a shifting but seemingly constant endeavor, has long included a compelling impulse to consecrate places of staggering suffering (like Gettysburg) in order to make holy the site of willing sacrifice.

Our impulse is the same today in remembrance of unwilling victimization (the Sept. 11 attack), in memory of values sustained and valued lives lost. Such places may acquire near-immediate sanctity or a slowly emerging importance but their rootage is the same: in a deep recognition of heroism and vicarious sacrifice. Other places are marked not by heroic stature but by a sense of shame. A place may become sacred by its obliterating senselessness (Gallows Hill in Salem, site of the 1692 "witches" execution; today, Columbine), where moral loss and distorted meaning prevails. In such places we stand on "shadowed," haunted ground.

At the same time, there are so-called "designated" special places that become sacred through "rectification," in a gradual evolution toward corrective action through education and reconciliation. (The Lorraine Motel in Memphis where Martin Luther King Jr. was executed, now committed to racial understanding. Or a training center for fire safety at the original site of the Great Chicago Fire.) Foote's analysis raises questions that are useful in approaching any memorial place of significance: how it emerged, how its meaning may have changed in a new cultural context, and whether its purpose has shifted because of changes in our understanding of ourselves.

Foote's reflections were replete with examples, especially from the Southwest (the Alamo, the Oklahoma City Federal Building), where much of his research and writing has taken place. Yet, I rather think that most of us listening had an alternative set of examples running through our minds, focused on our own experiences and memories. I had just returned some days before this lecture from Berlin, a city of which I have extensive experience. I began thinking of Foote's analytic characteristics applied to that haunted city, where one cannot help but be reminded on every street, almost every block, of a past of sacrifice and tragedy.

The Grunewald Freight Station with its bronze plaques lining the rails for 100 yards, each denoting the exact number of Jews who boarded a train there, with an exact date and destination, deported to death. The quiet little park on Grosse Hamburger Strasse, with its writhing sculptures, that was a collection site for orphaned children and elderly people on their way to extinction. The sidewalk monument just outside Philharmonic Hall, a pinnacle of German culture and sophistication, that marks the now-obliterated street site (Tiergarten Strasse 4) of the Third Reich headquarters for the infamous "T-4" program, the eugenic program for racial purity that led to the murder of more than 100,000 mentally ill or severely disabled persons.

Each of us has such special memorials deeply imprinted in our minds, reflecting sacred places permanently powerful in our own emotional experience. For those who find this interrelation of memory and meaning a provocative call, particularly in our own culture, a valuable resource is Foote's most recent monograph, "Shadowed Ground: America's Landscape of Tragedy and Violence" (2003). Foote reminds us well that there is both an inevitable and continually important asset here, in the collective arena where perseverance of memory helps us shape and clarify who we think we are and how we want to convey to ourselves and to others what are our most important moments, for good or ill, because their meaning has become ours. ♣

New lines of connection

The cultural environment in which the college flourishes is growing too and, as new communities engage, the campus itself reflects its changing surroundings

By Jeff Kurowski

"Empowering!"

That's how Hy Xiong, a senior at Green Bay East High School, described a special art day for Hmong high school students at St. Norbert College.

Students from Wausau, Sheboygan, Brown County and the Fox Valley gathered for the free event, focused on the theme "Core Values, Prayer, Community and Service to Others."

"Hmong people are very much about community," said Xiong, "so we like being able to network and interact with new people."

The March event centered on the creation of a community art mural for the gathering space of Madelaine and Lorraine residence halls. The project was facilitated by Hmong artist Seexeng Lee of Minneapolis.

Each student painted a tile for the mosaic. Lee had previously drawn connecting lines on the 216 tiles that together created "Confluence," the 20-by-5-foot mural.

"We could paint whatever we wanted to," said May See Yang of Green Bay. "I wanted to show what my values are through my painting."

Following the art project, Lee presented "Evolution of Hmong Art" to the students, their parents and representatives of the college. The day's activities also offered the visitors campus tours, a financial

aid information session and a leadership workshop.

"One of the goals is for the students to identify that being a leader is in your own hands," said Eric Wagner '06 (Admissions). "If they have a goal, they have to reach for it. We hope they learn something about their own leadership traits and the value in branching out to others."

The students were asked to define leadership through words, symbols or drawings before participating in a task to test their teamwork skills. Small groups, supplied with 25 balloons and a roll of tape, were challenged to build the tallest balloon tower.

"That was pretty creative," said Jeffrey Lor of Wausau. "They made us really think about the best way to build it. It was fun."

Lor, a graduate of Wausau West, is exploring colleges after a year out of school. "I wanted to come and learn about St. Norbert and experience the college," he said. "This was a good opportunity, and I really enjoyed it."

"We are trying to encourage more Hmong students to consider higher education," said Wagner. "I'm pretty confident we will offer this again next year, but for a different cultural group, possibly African-American or Hispanic students. We would like to do one a year. It appears to be a success, and the mural came together beautifully." ♣



Web Extra

Artist Seexeng Lee at work on the new mural in the lobby of Mad/Lor. The piece, created from 216 hand-painted tiles, is a vibrant symbol of the growing diversity of the Green Bay area and of the campus itself. For more images of its creation, go to snc.edu/go/magazine

A VOICE when they couldn't speak

Three parents have developed unsought advocacy skills out of a need to speak up on behalf of their children and others facing similar challenges

By Jeff Kurowski

American author and educational reformer Dorothy Canfield Fisher once said, "A mother is not a person to lean on, but a person to make leaning unnecessary."

Her words ring true for these alums who have come to serve as advocates not only for their own children, but for others facing similar challenges.

Christine Schlegel Brown '93 will never forget the moment her second child, Connor, was diagnosed with phenylketonuria (PKU), a genetic disorder where the body is missing an enzyme that produces protein.

"For my husband, Kevin, and I, it was just devastating," she says. "You hold this baby in your hands, and then he starts treatment within 10 days of life. Luckily, there is a treatment for PKU."

Two years later, a newborn screening revealed that the Browns' third son, Kellen, now 1, also has the metabolic disease. Eldest son Keagan is PKU-free. Keeping Connor, now 3, and Kellen healthy requires a low-protein diet and, as an essential supplement, a synthetic formula.

"It's very expensive," says Schlegel Brown. "The formula is approximately \$40,000 a year. It's also more costly buying food for the boys. For example, a package of low-protein spaghetti is \$11.24."

PKU is diagnosed in one of every 14,000 births in the United States. If treatment is not started within the first few weeks of life, a child may develop mental retardation or neurological problems.

Schlegel Brown is thankful to be living in the state of Wisconsin, which has insurance mandates for PKU treatment.

"I was leaving Wisconsin after I graduated and never coming back," she says. "I had developed my own major, global peace and justice studies with an emphasis in Africa. I was working out of Washington, D.C., and traveling to Africa to do field research,

conflict resolution, and work with human rights development and fundraising. St. Norbert taught me well. I knew I wanted to do something involving social justice."

Schlegel Brown is now active in assisting other families dealing with the disease. She serves on the board of directors for PKU and Allied Disorders of Wisconsin and was recently appointed the first executive director of the National PKU Alliance.

"We raise money through walks and fundraisers for research," she says. "We offer cooking classes and hold a conference each year with breakout sessions."

Progress has been made through organized efforts. "The first drug for PKU has been approved by the FDA. The only way you create change is when you get together and push for it."

Parenting children with autism can be challenging, but Chelsea (Buchman) Budde '95 says it has also been a "wonderful blessing." Her son, Justus, 9, was diagnosed close to the birth of her daughter, Noelle, 6, who also has autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Budde, her husband, Pete, and their two children live in Waukesha, Wis. Following several years working in public relations, motherhood changed Budde's path in life.

"It's not in the best interest of my children to do a 9-to-5 job," she says, "but I am definitely doing what I love. I think I have some knowledge, some calling in my life to work for kids with special needs, autism in particular. I felt selfish. I wanted to share what I've learned to help other children."

Budde joined another mother, Denise Schamens of Brookfield, to form Good Friend Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering awareness, acceptance and empathy toward children with autism.

"We started out by deciding that we really need to make a video about how to be friends with kids with autism," says Budde. "It's not fair to expect an 8-year-old second-grader to understand how to be friends with this unique child. We then thought, 'Let's really maximize this by developing a curriculum and a board of directors.' It snowballed into the organization."

Budde serves as president and, along with Schamens, facilitates Good Friend's training programs. The organization offers peer sensitivity workshops at schools featuring grade-appropriate exercises and a screening of the 17-minute video. Each participant receives a certificate and an "I Am a Good Friend" bracelet. It also offers general assemblies for schools and in-services for staffs. This



Christine Schlegel Brown '93 and sons Kellen, left, and Connor.



Chelsea (Buchman) Budde '95 with Justus.



Michelle (Hartmann) Puryear '89 and daughter Claire.

summer, the team will present at the Autism Society of America's annual conference.

"Our focus is to reach elementary school kids before the social stigmas are developed," says Budde. "We want them to be accepting and to make that a part of their environmental culture. We try to explain that the child with autism has a brain that works differently, so they understand certain behaviors. We also try to find kids with common interests. The child's special interest may be dinosaurs, so who else likes dinosaurs?"

Good Friend, officially launched in 2007, is funded through donations and is looking for more supporters, says Budde. Information on the organization, its programs, on ordering the DVD and providing support is available online at www.goodfriendinc.com.

"I call it a God thing, how it all came together like it was supposed to," says Budde. "We are living and breathing this in our lives and we would be negligent if we didn't share this. We know in our hearts we are building a better world for our kids and others."

Michelle (Hartmann) Puryear '89 has sung the national Anthem at Lambeau Field and performed with such artists as Reba McEntire and Brenda Lee, but her favorite audience is her daughter, Claire.

Puryear's vocal and dance talents led her to make her home in "Music City," Nashville, Tenn., where she and her husband, Matt, welcomed Claire into the world with a clean bill of health on June 14, 2006. Matt suspected early on that his daughter suffered from deafness. At 4½ months, she was diagnosed with sensorineural bilateral hearing loss.

"I wanted to find out what we can do for our daughter," says Puryear. "When I began investigating, I discovered that babies born in Tennessee are not required by law to receive a hearing screening. Forty-three other states require screenings. Early intervention is the key to success."

A month after diagnosis, Claire was fitted for hearing aids to keep her hearing pathways healthy. She received her first cochlear implant in June 2007 and a second implant four months later. The implants allow Claire to "hear in her own way," says Puryear.

"She can't pick out certain sounds because everything is the same volume," she says. "It's difficult for her in loud environments."

"Hearing loss is the No. 1 birth defect in our country," she adds. "Thirty-three babies with hearing loss are born each day. There had to be a way to make newborn hearing screenings mandatory."

Puryear started a grassroots effort, contacting state representatives to sponsor a bill in the state legislature. The first bill was defeated, but her work continued. She scheduled more meetings and shared Claire's story with as many legislators as possible. On July 1, 2008, the bill was signed. A later amendment named it "Claire's Law."

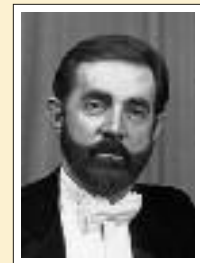
Puryear continues to serve as an advocate for the deaf and hard of hearing. She has started an awareness campaign and shares Claire's story at www.ourclairebear.com.

"Things happen to people in life and what you do is what makes a difference," she says. "I could have been upset and not done anything, but I didn't want anyone else to go through what we went through." ♣



A musical legacy

Piano pedagogy students who never knew **Thomas Hurley** will benefit from a new



Thomas Hurley

scholarship in memory of the professor of piano. Hurley taught at St. Norbert for almost 30 years and his memory was honored 11 years ago at a benefit recital. The abbey community supported the event

generously and the scholarship fund endowed through the proceeds has now matured.

Gayle Westfahl '98 says Hurley, who died in 1997, is remembered fondly for his personality and his gifts and generosity in teaching by many generations of college and area students. She herself appreciated Hurley's warm manner, dedication to his students and sense of humor. He was a lover of Seroogy's chocolates and Westfahl says she still buys a Seroogy's bar every year at the music educators' convention in his memory.

Mary Ehlinger '76, who knew the professor as teacher, fellow student (in graduate school at Louisiana State University) and friend, says, "Thanks to Tom's mentoring I found the courage to follow a path in piano.

"I never could have imagined how instrumental it would be in creating and sustaining a career in music. He guided me through SNC, LSU and my move to NYC. Through all these years, with each opportunity, I am reminded that Tom, my friend, is part of it."

■ **Mary Oling-Sisay** (Student Affairs) has been named an ACE Fellow for the coming academic year. The ACE Fellows Program, established in

1965 by the American Council for Education, is designed to strengthen leadership in higher education. Thirty-eight fellows, nominated by the presidents or chancellors of their institutions, were selected this year in a national competition.

"This is a tremendous opportunity and a great honor for Mary and for St. Norbert College," says **President Tom Kunkel**. "Mary's inclusion in ACE is another example of the excellent quality of administrators we have at St. Norbert."

■ **Rosemary Sands** (International Education) has been named to the advisory board for the SQUOLA Center for Contemporary Italian Studies, at Florence University of the Arts in Italy.

At the 2009 NAFSA: Association for International Educators conference, Sands co-presented on "Education Abroad Advising" with colleagues from Arcadia, Emory, the University of Florida, the University of Hartford and the University of Virginia.

■ **Edward Risdén** (English) and Nickolas Haydock co-edited "Hollywood in the Holy Land: Essays on Film Depictions of the Crusades and Christian-Muslim Clashes," published by McFarland Publishers this spring.

A lifelong commitment to the greater good marks two outstanding careers of service

Sister Sally Ann Brickner, O.S.F., '67 has stepped down from the directorship of the Peace and Justice Center following her election as first vice president of her religious community, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross. Brickner, whose name has been most closely associated with the development of the center through its first 10 years, will continue to teach in the peace and justice minor as she transitions into her new role.

Brother Steve Herro, O.Praem., '85 says, "She leaves a phenomenal legacy. She staunchly connected Catholic social teaching to the work of the center; she led by example, organizing and attending trips to School of the Americas, Cuernavaca Center for Intercultural Dialogue on Development, St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter."



Sister Sally Ann Brickner

For a number of years, Herro served on the Peace and Justice Center advisory committee with Brickner. "She had a wonderful knack for pushing her students to achieve 'at the next level' in state academic conferences and always made me feel a welcome collaborator in the college's peace and justice ministry. I am forever grateful for what she has meant for me, the college, and the wider Church."

Brickner has been a faculty member at St. Norbert College since 1970. Appointed initially to the education discipline, she served as its director from 1982 to 1984. She chaired the social science division from 1984 to 1989, and then was the first person to serve as associate academic dean at St. Norbert, from 1989 to 1995. In 2001, she began her tenure at the Peace and Justice Center, established to help prepare and engage students to serve as ethical and dynamic agents of change in their local, regional, national and global communities. Brickner has empowered the center's student interns to champion the social issues about which they feel most passionate.

Her own service has taken her to Canada, Nicaragua, Great Britain, Germany, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Peoples' Republic of China, Japan, Haiti and most recently to Colombia, where she worked with Christian Peacemaker Teams.

Bonnie Berken (Mathematics) retires this year after 27 years at the college.

Widely published, Berken has been an active member of the Mathematical Association of America. Among her notable accomplishments, she drew on her expertise in ethnomathematics to develop the Multicultural Mathematics Ideas course, in which students study how different cultures have approached mathematical topics. **John Frohlinger** (Mathematics) calls her dedication "exemplary," adding, "Her teaching demonstrated innovation and the concern for students that distinguishes SNC."



Bonnie Berken

Berken co-chaired the state's high school mathematics competition with **Kathy Muhs** (Mathematics). The two women will continue to work with the Green Bay Public School District and the Wausaukee School District on a U.S. Department of Education Mathematics/Science Partnership grant. Under the auspices of this grant, Berken and Muhs create and teach graduate courses focusing on the content and pedagogy of mathematics education.

"For 27 years, Bonnie has been a highly esteemed colleague and a wonderful friend," says Muhs. "She has touched so many lives through her teaching and mentoring here at St. Norbert — through the Native American math camps she directed, through the extensive mathematics exhibit she arranged at the Neville Museum, through her years of work with the Einstein Program, and most recently, through the math and science partnerships with area school districts.

"She has particularly touched my life in uncountable ways, with the most important being her friendship. We have collaborated on so many projects together through the years that it is difficult to imagine Bonnie not being on campus. I will miss her."

■ **David Hunnicutt** (Biology) and his student **Sam Spencer '09** have been working together on research that may aid understanding of columnaris disease, an infection of fish. The duo have been studying motility in different strains of flavobacterium columnare, a gram negative bacterium that causes the disease in many freshwater fish species, to determine which are most pathogenic.

■ **Mark Selin** (Admissions) has been appointed to the governance and nominating committee of the National Association for College Admission Counseling for a three-year term.

Selin has served the Wisconsin Association for College Admission Counseling as delegate and past president. This spring he was named Admission Professional of the Year at the group's annual conference.

■ **James Harris** (Business Administration) and **Michael Audette '09** worked together this year on an exploratory consumer study on group influences. Their concern was with sensitivity and perception among opinion leaders as they see trends they have adopted move into the mainstream.

■ Recognized at this year's Faculty Awards reception were **Kari Cunningham** (Chemistry) and **Michael Lovano** (History), who received the Leonard Ledvina Award for Excellence in Teaching; **Tim Flood** (Geology) and **Kevin Quinn** (Economics), who received the Donald B. King Distinguished Scholar Award; and **Mark Bockenbauer** (Geography), who received the Bishop Robert F. Morneau Community Service Award.

■ The entire campus was saddened by the death March 13 of **Chris Sarkis** (Registrar's Office).

Sarkis was a good friend and coworker to many during her 30-year career at St. Norbert. Most recently, she worked as technical support specialist in the office of the registrar.

But she touched countless lives in other roles, too — in the office of **John Sutton** (Academic Affairs), in Academic Support Services, and through her valued contributions to programs like Ocean Voyagers, Kids' College and the Young Artists' Workshop.

Juggling responsibilities in service to others

Co-workers in the office of admission, **Dustin Thill** (left) and **Eric Wagner '06** were able to collaborate in a whole new way on a trip to Kenya this year.

The two men went to work alongside local volunteers to build simple houses and facilities for members of the Kikuyu tribe living south of Nairobi.

Thill says, "You can arrive at the site with all this stuff lying about and by the end of the day you can almost have the structure of a 10 by 10 home that will house six people. Some of these people have never had a home before."

With their group were Wagner's parents, Romey and Lisa, making a return visit with Helping Hands, a non-profit out of Wausau founded by **Tom Roovers '66**.

One of the jobs on the group's to-do list was to tile a church the organization had built on a previous trip. Two members of the group built 95 beds while they were in Kenya, Thill says.

One woman just could not believe she would be sleeping in a bed that night — her whole life, she had slept on the ground.

Wagner's juggling skills won friends after work was done. The tennis balls he took with him delighted the Kikuyu — they had never before seen anything that bounced!



Above, Dustin Thill and friends in rural Kenya. Right, Eric Wagner '06, multi-tasking.





much-needed supplies to the Zambia Open Community Schools.

■ **Matt Schmitz '12** shared the stage with Garrison Keillor when his four-piece pop/rock group, Dance Billy Dance, played on NPR's "Prairie Home Companion" this spring. The show broadcast live from the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in Appleton, Wis.

■ **Ryan Pavlik '09** graduated this May with not one, not two, but three majors: Spanish, computer science and math. During his four years at St. Norbert, Pavlik studied abroad in Spain, worked with Google's Summer of Code and maintained his own technical consulting company.

Ryan's senior project was the development of hardware and software that enable multi-touch interaction with computers. He now begins a Ph.D. program in human-computer interaction at Iowa State.

■ Her semester at St. Norbert earned Australian exchange student **Danielle Tracy** some ink when she made the Global Opportunities newsletter in Queensland.

Tracy decided to study in the United States

after meeting American exchange students at her alma mater, the University of the Sunshine Coast. "I saw how much fun they had," she said. "I wanted to experience that for myself.

"I traveled quite a bit around the U.S. and got to see the differences between people from the Midwest compared to people from California or Florida."

Danielle said she enjoyed waking up and looking out the window at the first snowfall, and even living on campus in minus 20-degree weather.

■ A paper by **Kim Anderson '09** was named Best Critical Paper for 2009 at the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society national convention in March. Anderson's essay, on "Charlotte Temple's Fall from Grace: A Painful Lesson about Inaction," took first over 800 other submissions.

Other St. Norbert students who presented at the undergraduate convention were **Amie Arnoldussen '10, Kathryn Botsford '10, Matt Bougie '10, Sarah Cornelissen '10, Meghan Engsborg '09, Christine Garten '09, Jody Kolter '11, Anthony Malcore '09, Suzan Odabasi '09, Magdalynn O'Leary '09, Jenna Prince '09, Greg Stanley '09, Kristen Susienka '10 and Paul Utterback '09.**

■ Twenty students in a Health Communication course taught by **Katharine Ourada '05** (Communication and Media Studies) collaborated with Health and Wellness Services this spring to help promote and assess their annual walking program, Step It Up.

"The class was a success and the information we have received for the Step It Up program will be invaluable," says **Barb Bloomer** (Health and Wellness Services).

The theme of this year's program was Zambian Knights. Along with marketing the program itself, the students sold Step It Up bracelets and raised more than \$500 to provide

Looking at a new aesthetic in a traditional culture

Work on show at a recent photo exhibit on the depiction of women in popular Japanese culture is just one outcome of a student research trip to the Far East. The students are now compiling a video of interviews they conducted in Japan, and their research report is to be published at ASIANetwork.com.

Deziree Larson '09, Alyssa Beyer '10, Katlyn Jaeger '10 and Paul McEnaney '10 traveled to Japan last summer with faculty mentor **Ikuko Torimoto** (Modern Languages and Literatures). Their goal was to study the Japanese aesthetic and compare the way women are presented in the pop art forms of *anime* and *manga* with their portrayal in traditional Japanese theatre. Their report, "100 Faces of Japanese Women," drew on interviews with representatives from the Association of Japanese Animations and the Traditional Kabuki Promotion Association, as well as from magazines, production companies and museums.

The group found that Japanese culture strives to bring traditional values forward into the modern world, validating contemporary actions by their association with an already accepted past. This provides a means through which the culture can rapidly assimilate new ideas, while at the same time redefining them to be distinctly Japanese.

For women, societal pressures continue, but female characters in newer art forms like *manga* (comics) are assigned attributes like strength alongside traditional stereotypical characteristics like beauty and gentleness.



From left to right: **Alyssa Beyer '10, Katlyn Jaeger '10 and Deziree Larson '09** in Japan. The three women had the opportunity to learn how to present themselves in conformity with traditional ideals of Japanese beauty.

Web Extra

You can see more photos from the "100 Faces of Japanese Women" exhibit at snc.edu/go/magazine

Farewell to student colleagues

They made quite the team. This May the Office of Communications said goodbye to four graduating interns, all of whom contributed to this magazine as well as to many other projects.

Jordan Vater '09 worked on media relations all four of his undergraduate years. For the last two years, **Katrina Marshall '09** and **Jenna Prince '09** not only wrote articles but offered valuable editorial assistance, and **Suzan Odabasi '09**, a regular contributor, put to good use the journalism experience she had acquired previously as an intern in Germany.

The four students formed an efficient and creative staff, and became valued co-workers. We will miss them very much, and send them on their way with the very best of wishes for a bright future.

Left to right, Marshall, Prince, Odabasi and Vater.



■ **Samantha J. Kretz '10** and **Josh Jones '10** have each been awarded undergraduate fellowships by the Fund for Theological Education (FTE). The award includes a scholarship as well as a place at a national summer conference at which undergraduates across the Christian denominations explore the possible call to ministry.

The FTE's mission is to encourage caring, capable and courageous young adults from diverse backgrounds on their journey to become pastors and scholars – the next generation of leaders for the church.

■ Five students and two alumni took part in this year's Spring Work Day at Camp U-Nah-Li-Ya in Suring, Wis. The men helped by deconstructing docks due for replacement at the YMCA camp.

Not only did the experience connect them to the community but also to one another. "We really bonded during the service work," says **Jordan Neeck '11**.

Neeck worked with **Cyle Schneider '10, Mike Gegelski '07 and Rodrigo Villalobos '12;** ESL students **Julian Herrera** and **Luis Quibarrera;** and **Bill Van Ess '85.**

■ **Justin Krueger '09** and **Justin Wrzesinski '10** were among delegates from only 10 schools invited to an all-men's vocational discernment conference at Georgia Tech this spring. The event was sponsored by the Fund for Theological Education.

"Talking with the other participants at the conference was nothing short of amazing," says Krueger. A highlight was the event's ecumenical focus. "It was not about one person out to prove

that he was right in his beliefs, but rather, how can we use all of our traditions to learn and grow from one another, and to ultimately better the world. I left with a lot more insight about myself and my own vocation, but also with the knowledge that we are not in this alone."

■ It's not just student teaching that is taking education students into local schools.

Last semester, Lombardi Middle School invited 32 of St. Norbert's science education students to judge their 10th annual science fair.

And some 40 education students went to Washington Middle School to paint the halls, create murals and paint quotations around the school. The project was funded through a grant to the Student Wisconsin Education Association.

■ Recognized at this year's Academic Awards Dinner for four years of excellence were these members of the class of 2009: **Teresa Amman, Amy Bieber, Elyn Brabender, Jennifer Buresh, Tessa Caine, Danielle DeGroot, Michelle Deutsch, Theresa Dobihal, Susan Ernst, Caitlin Froemming, Amanda King, Andrea Klika, Gina Lanser, Kate Mayhew, Rebecca Melis, Katie Peterson, Sarah Schmidt, Catherine Smith and Molly Templeton** (Education); **Jesse Bair** (Political Science); **Rachelle Barina** (Peace and Justice Studies and Religious Studies); **Francis Beaumier** (Computer Science and Spanish); **Cullen Braun** (Physics and Mathematics); **John Cremer** (Business Administration and Mathematics); **Emily Czarnik-Neimeyer** (Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies); **Aimee D'Amour, Steven Gale, Alyssa Kurth, Stephanie Miller, Seth Oberschlake, Erin Reinl, Megan Schemmel and Benjamin Wiseley** (Biology); **Michael Dowden and Patrick LaPacz** (History); **Meghan Engsborg, Jenna Prince, Davide Toffolon and Paul Utterback** (English); **Maria Fonferok, Amber Pamperin and Caitlin Zach** (Music Education); **Christine Garten and Catherine Wiesley** (French); **Erin Gasparka** (International Business and French); **Melissa Geier** (Business Administration and Economics); **Sarah Goodman** (Political Science and Sociology); **Katie Haines** (Natural Science); **Jennifer Jacobsen** (Mathematics and Economics); **Matthew Kahlscheuer, Keeley Meier and Darryl Wesener** (Chemistry); **Kate Kaminski** (Business Administration and Mathematics); **Jacob Kempowski** (Political Science and History); **Billy Korinko** (Women's and Gender Studies); **Kathryn Krasin, Matthew Muenster, Ashley Seewald and Jordan Vater** (Communication, Media and Theatre); **Ryan Kroening** (Computer Science and Economics); **Justin Krueger** (Religious Studies and Music Performance); **Deziree Larson, Audrey O'Hern and Scott Werley** (Art); **Van Le** (Computer Science and Business Administration); **Gina Leonardelli** (Psychology); **Nicole Martin** (Biology and Chemistry); **Shannon McClone** (Sociology); **Emily McElhaney, Michael Sheske and Steven Sleep** (Accounting); **Wendy Morrison** (Religious Studies and Spanish); **Johanna Panzer** (German); **Ryan Pavlik** (Computer Science, Spanish and Mathematics); **Andrew Rankin** (Business Administration); **Adi Redzic** (International Studies); **Heather Schulze** (Mathematics and Spanish); and **Katherine Trzaska** (Political Science and Communication, Media and Theatre).

Class Notes

1967 An (Vanderloop) Gehrman will retire from the ACES Xavier school system after 40 years of directing middle school bands. She will continue to perform with the Appleton City Band (of which she is president) and with the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra (of which she is a board member). Gehrman and her husband have two children and two grandchildren.

1974 Dave Carlson has been elected vice president of the Wisconsin Wastewater Operators' Association Board of Directors. He is currently a state Department of Natural Resources certified Grade 4 wastewater treatment plant operator. Grade 4 is the highest certification attainable in the state of Wisconsin.

1987 Richard Tengowski has been named president-elect of the Wisconsin Music Educators Association. He is also director of bands for the school district of Kohler (Wis.), as well as principal clarinetist in the St. Norbert Community Band.

1989 Karen Schill has been named Wisconsin Teacher of the Year for 2008 by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. She is an instructor at Wisconsin Rapids (Wis.) East Junior High School, as well as a member of her local Veterans War Memorial Committee, and has played an active role in projects involving war memorials.

1990 Kandi (Kilkelly) Hidde has been named by her peers as one of Indiana's Super Lawyers of 2009. She currently works as a business litigation lawyer at Bingham McHale Attorneys at Law in Indianapolis. Hidde lives in Zionsville, Ind.

1995 Brian Foster recently qualified for the Professional Bowlers Association South Regional Tour. His first tournament was April 17 in Brunswick, Ga. Foster lives in Norcross, Ga.

1997 Scott Menzel was recently commissioned to create a signature art piece for the Community Health Center in Green Bay. This spring also saw 20 works of Menzel's exhibited at the Wisconsin State Capitol.

1999 Bridget Blank was named an associate at Cunningham Group Architecture P.A. She is the marketing manager for the international design firm, which has its headquarters in Minneapolis.

2000 Sarah Heth is now working as a corporate marketing manager for the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers baseball team at their home near Appleton, Wis. The Timber Rattlers are the Class A affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers.

2002 Nicholas Bongers received an M.F.A. in graphic design from the Art Institute Online in December 2008. He lives in Howell, Mich.

2002 Katie (McCormick) LaFave has accepted a position at School Specialty Inc. as an international compliance analyst. She previously worked at Universal Forwarding Overseas. LaFave lives in Appleton, Wis.

2004 Sarah Krause led the Association Management Company Institute's accreditation process for Association Acumen LLC. She is the manager of association services and works with two clients. Krause lives in Milwaukee.

2007 Krista Perine is currently attending Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., to obtain her master's in special education.

Called to political service

By Lisa Strandberg

The **Rev. Robert John Cornell, O.Praem., '41** (Political Science, Emeritus) answered to many names in the course of his 89 years — Father Cornell during some 60 years teaching government and history, the Honorable Robert J. Cornell in the U.S. House of Representatives, and Bob among colleagues and friends. However they addressed him, those who knew the politically active Norbertine, who died May 10, recall his devotion to the underdog, his dedication to the priesthood and his unflinching sense of humor.

Cornell became only the second Roman Catholic priest in the nation's history elected as a voting delegate to the U.S. Congress, noted his obituary in the New York Times. (The Rev. Robert F. Drinan, a Massachusetts Democrat and Jesuit priest, was Cornell's contemporary in the House.) He represented Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District from 1975 to 1979 — the only Democrat to do so between 1945 and 1997 — before losing the seat to Republican Toby Roth in the 1978 contest.

Before running for Congress, Cornell was the Democratic Party chairman in his district. "It is my personal belief that serving in Congress is no more inconsistent with the priesthood than teaching government and history, as I have done for 35 years," Father Cornell said.

Cornell considered politics his best means to serve the needs of his community, an integral principle of his order's charism, said the **Rev. Al McBride, O.Praem., '50**, a fellow Norbertine and former student of Cornell's. Cornell was also known for promoting rock concerts to benefit charities. Before, during and after his time in Congress, Cornell had "an instinctive compassion for poor people no matter what the cause might be," McBride said.

"Bob was a Norbertine priest. It was very much a part of everything he said and did," said former Iowa representative Michael Blouin, a 23-year Catholic deacon who served in the House at the same time as Cornell. "The impact it's had on the lives he's touched is very much there, and it will ripple for decades to come." As a legislator, Cornell sought educational benefits for Vietnam veterans and, said Blouin, was "very much committed to working people and civil rights."

After a papal directive forbidding priests from occupying elective office, Cornell returned to his teaching career at St. Norbert. "It was a natural fit to hear his experiences running for Congress and serving in Congress," said **Rep. Rich Zipperer '96**, R-Pewaukee, a former student Cornell encouraged to enter politics despite their opposing party affiliations.

Cornell was born in Gladstone, Mich. — "Happy Rock," as he liked to call it — on Dec. 16, 1919. He attended St. Norbert High School and was named the Diocese of Green Bay's outstanding Catholic boy in 1937. After joining the Norbertine order in 1938, Cornell was ordained in 1944 and taught at Norbertine high schools in northeast Wisconsin and Pennsylvania as well as at St. Norbert College, where he also served as dean of students.



The Rev. Robert John Cornell, O.Praem., '41 in 1978, with Vice President Walter Mondale.

Photo courtesy Green Bay Press-Gazette

St. Norbert Abbey celebrates its golden anniversary

By Katrina Marshall '09

In the early 1950s, the future site of St. Norbert Abbey was still a cornfield. Before the decade was out, the 160 acres east of the Fox River would become the new home of the Canons Regular of Prémontré.

This year the abbey is celebrating its first 50 years on the site. Last month saw a celebratory Mass of Thanksgiving to mark the golden anniversary of its dedication and consecration on June 16, 1959.

"An abbey is the spiritual and administrative headquarters for the priests, brothers and seminarians who make up the order's membership," explains the **Rev. Stephen Rossey, O.Praem., '56**, who has authored a book on the abbey's history.

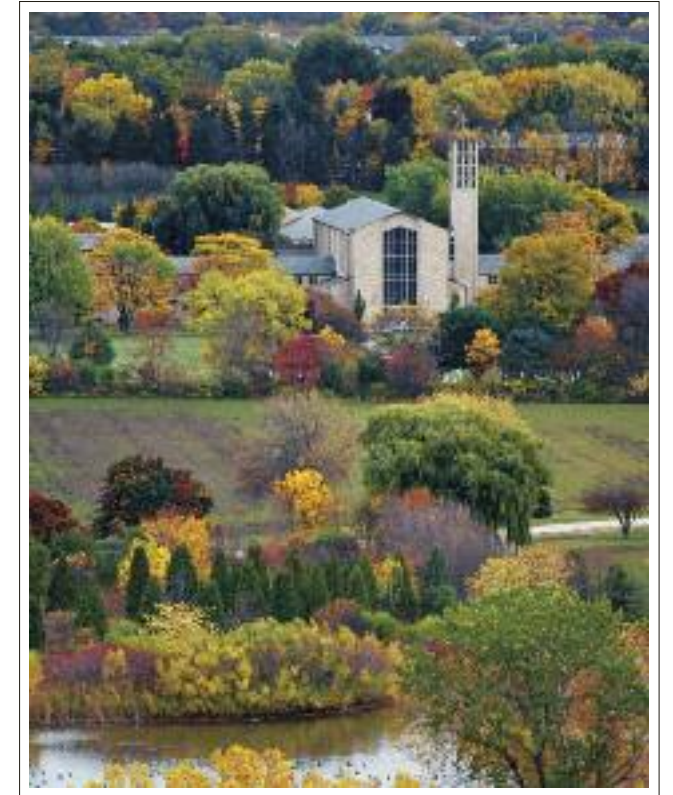
In 1120, he explains, Norbert of Xanten founded the first abbey of the Norbertine order in the valley of Prémontré, in France. The **Rev. Bernard Pennings, O.Praem.,** of the Netherlands, brought with him Norbert of Xanten's legacy, a vision of religious living together and holding all things in common, when he arrived in northeastern Wisconsin in 1893.

Under the care of Pennings, Old St. Joseph Parish on the St. Norbert College campus became the site of the first American priory. When the foundation qualified for abbey status in 1925, Pennings became its first abbot. One year after his death in 1955, Pennings' successor, **Abbot Sylvester Killeen, O.Praem., '27**, announced plans for the construction of a new "contemporary monastery."

The groundbreaking at that expansive cornfield on June 9, 1956, defined a significant moment in the community's history, marking as it did both the anniversary of Pennings' birth and the establishment of a place where De Pere's Norbertines could live out the full canonical life.

It was not until Jan. 31, 1959, that members of the community moved to their new monastery from the original abbey. Among those to make the transition was the **Rev. Brian Prunty, O.Praem. '61** (Religious Studies), who remembers just how crowded the "old" abbey at St. Norbert was.

"Before the move, life seemed a bit more rushed and cramped. We were excited to move. The atmosphere in the 'new' abbey was very contemplative," says Prunty, who explains that, in the current abbey, one's work, prayer and study lives have areas in separate rooms, with the big church perfect for silent reflection. "That was really a treat," he says, reminiscing about how the long, beautiful sunlit corridors of the abbey "very much lent [themselves] to being prayerful, to being contemplative."



Less than five months after the move, visitors from all over the world arrived to help the community celebrate three joyous days of dedication and consecration.

Golden anniversary celebrations this year not only recognized what the "new" abbey has meant to its community for five decades but also the significance it continues to hold for next-generation members of its present-day community.

"The abbey today, with its magnificent church and 160 acres of natural and landscaped beauty, continues to be a sacred environment for people growing in their relationship with God," says **Judy Turba '76**, the current abbey's public relations coordinator. "With lovely prayer spaces, along with programs and retreats offered through the Norbertine Center for Spirituality, hundreds of people are finding this holy place to be a beautiful component in their faith lives."

The 48-page illustrated volume published to mark the 50th anniversary of St. Norbert Abbey is available at \$15.00, plus shipping. For information: stnorbertabbeypr@gmail.com.

Web Extra



For sights and sounds of the abbey past and present, see the photo gallery at snc.edu/go/magazine

Senior half-miler sweeps 2009 indoor and outdoor national championships

March 14 at the Rose-Hulman Institute in Indiana, Ashley Graybill '09 copped the first women's national title for St. Norbert since Laura Salm '93 claimed indoor high jump titles in 1991 and 1993.

Barely two months later Graybill capped her indoor 800-meter title with a second national championship. Her win came in a strongly contested run at the NCAA Division III Outdoor Championships in Ohio, at Marietta College's Don Drumm Stadium.

Graybill became the first St. Norbert track and field athlete to sweep the same event championships in the indoor and outdoor seasons in the same year. Her second championship brought the college its first national title in outdoor track and field.

At the indoor meet at Rose-Hulman Institute's Hulbert Arena, Graybill ran a Division III season-best time of 2 minutes 9.95 seconds, exactly a second faster than runner-up Jessica Scott of UW-Platteville. Other than Scott, Graybill's run was more than two seconds faster than the rest of the field.

Outdoors, Graybill's school-record



time of 2 minutes 9.18 seconds clipped The College of New Jersey's Jianna Spadacinni at the finish line, with Spadacinni finishing in 2:09.37. UW-Platteville's Jessica Scott, the runner-up to Graybill at this year's indoor meet and top seed at the outdoor event, was third

in 2:09.83.

St. Norbert track and field coach Don Augustine said Graybill was fifth with about 200 meters to go before an impressive finishing kick gave the impetus to her win.

"She was about three wide on the outside with about 100 meters to go and she took off," Augustine said. "She passed the pack with about 80 meters to go and held on from there."

Graybill was the final qualifier into the eight-person finals after a time of 2:12.84 during the trials the day before.

Jenny Scherer '10, St. Norbert's second athlete to qualify for nationals this year, entered the 5,000-meter run as the 11th seed out of 18 entrants and finished fourth for her second All-America honor of the outdoor championships. Scherer also placed fourth in the 10,000-meter run on Thursday.

St. Norbert recorded a top-10 team finish, placing in a tie for 10th with 20 points.

The Green Knights, who finished eighth at the NCAA indoor meet in March, recorded their two highest team finishes in school history this season.

Knights abroad

Green Knight men's basketball has emerged victorious from its first foreign tour. The team traveled to Greece this May, winning two of its three games against regional club teams.

After a 19-point loss to Near East Basketball Club, the Green Knights bounced back in their second game, beating Nikiti Ekaskenop by 7 points. They ended the trip with a 40-point win over Maroussi Basketball Club, a professional team. "Every guy played a major role in the victory and it was a great way to end the trip and the basketball games," wrote players Paul Mallers '11 and Jake Dietz '10. The duo blogged from Greece: Read more about their experience at www.snc.edu/athletics/basketballm.

When the team was off the court, the players had the chance to visit the Acropolis in Athens and the Temple of Zeus in Olympia (one of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World). They also took a cruise on the Mediterranean Sea and visited the islands of Hydra, Poros and Aegina.



The Green Knights visited the Acropolis, Athens' best-known landmark.

St. Norbert College 2008-09 Sports Records

Football 7-3 overall, 7-2 MWC, 3rd in conference

Volleyball 30-4 overall, 9-0 MWC. Conference Champion, NCAA Tournament First Round

Men's Soccer 13-6 overall, 8-1 MWC, 2nd in conference

Women's Soccer 12-7-1 overall, 8-1 MWC. Conference Champion

Women's Tennis 5-8 overall, 3-1 MWC North, 4th in conference

Cross Country Men 2nd in conference, women T3rd in conference

Women's Golf 7th in conference

Men's Basketball 18-6 overall, 12-4 MWC, T3rd in conference

Women's Basketball 20-5 overall, 15-1 MWC, 2nd in conference

Men's Ice Hockey 19-8-1 overall, 8-5-1 NCHA, 4th in conference

Women's Swimming 9th in conference

Indoor Track Men 4th in conference. Women 3rd in conference. Women 8th at NCAA Meet

Outdoor Track Men 5th in conference. Women 3rd in conference. Women T10th at NCAA Meet

Men's Tennis 18-10 overall, 4-0 MWC North, 4th in conference

Men's Golf 2nd in conference

Women's Softball 17-19 overall, 10-3 MWC North. Conference Champion, NCAA Regional

Baseball 23-15 overall, 12-4 MWC North, 2nd in conference, NCAA Regional

Green Knights finish strong for another outstanding year

Two NCAA Division III track and field championships, three conference championships and the Midwest Conference women's all-sports trophy – retained for the third consecutive year – made 2008-09 another outstanding year for Green Knight athletics.

Ashley Graybill '09 won St. Norbert's two national track and field titles, claiming the 800-meter titles at both the indoor and outdoor championships.

Jenny Scherer '10 added three All-America finishes in distance running between the indoor and outdoor seasons, to team with Graybill to help the Green Knights to an eighth-place finish nationally at the NCAA Indoor Meet and a tie for 10th place at the NCAA Outdoor Meet.

The two finishes were the highest ever for St. Norbert's track program and the indoor team finish was St. Norbert's highest for a women's team since the basketball team advanced to the NCAA Division III Final Four in 1985.

In January, St. Norbert College named the playing court in Schuldes Sports Center Connie Tilley Court after the long-time women's basketball coach. Tilley then became the 15th women's basketball coach in NCAA Division III history to win 500 games, with a 66-54 win over Carroll University on Jan. 28.

Men's basketball opened the season 16-1 before finishing 18-6, but earned a milestone win in the process. The Green Knights defeated UW-Platteville 70-68 in

the championship game of the Nicolet Bank Holiday Tournament on Dec. 30 at Schuldes Sports Center. UW-Platteville was ranked No. 1 in the D3hoops.com Top 25 at the time, marking the first time in any sport a St. Norbert team has defeated a top-ranked foe.

Women's volleyball, women's soccer and women's softball all won Midwest Conference championships this year, and 18 of St. Norbert's 20 teams finished in the top half of the conference.

Volleyball finished 30-4 and opened the season with a 19-0 record. The Green Knights swept through the Midwest Conference Tournament and advanced to the NCAA Tournament before losing a five-set thriller to Carthage College in the first round.

Softball closed the season strong, winning 14 of its last 22 games. The Green Knight team swept a tripleheader on the final day of the Midwest Conference Championship to claim their second league title in three years.

Baseball finished second in the Midwest Conference Championship, but swept six games in the last four days of the regular season just to qualify for the league's championship tournament. St. Norbert, which beat three different Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference schools in the same season for the first time ever, received an at-large selection to the NCAA Division III Tournament. ♣





A WARM WELCOME AWAITS

The summer months bring many opportunities for entertainment and education on campus. For more information on these and many other events, visit www.snc.edu/calendar.

July 14-Aug. 11 Knights on the Fox outdoor concert series, Tuesday evenings

July 30-Aug. 12 “West Side Story,” presented by Music Theatre

Aug. 30 Dedication of the Miriam B. and James J. Mulva Library
Convocation, Mass of the Holy Spirit and campus picnic

Sept. 19 SNC Day and Fall Fest: a day to showcase the St. Norbert College campus and celebrate with the city of De Pere

Sept. 26 Vocal recital by Yi-Lan Niu (Music)

Oct. 12-16 Heritage Days

Oct. 16 Norman and Louis Miller Lecture

Oct. 23-25 Reunion/Homecoming

Nov. 6-14 “Twelfth Night,” presented by St. Norbert College Theatre