Campaign St. Norbert: FULL AHEAD
These are exciting days at St. Norbert College

Consider: This institution began life just over 100 years ago with a “freshman class” of one.

Since that first seminarian began his studies under Abbot Pennings in 1898, a steadfast commitment to excellence—and to Norbertine, Catholic, liberal arts values—has brought us steadily forward. Today, the school boasts an enrollment over 2,200, with more than 180 full- and part-time faculty members, on a campus of some 41 buildings.

It has been an impressive century of growth. But the real story about St. Norbert College today doesn’t involve “bigger”—it involves “better.”

In its pursuit of excellence, the college has been reaching unprecedented milestones... and the pace is quickening.
This is a watershed moment for St. Norbert College.

Gathering Momentum ...

St. Norbert College has long been held in high regard; it has been ranked among U.S. News’ best Midwestern liberal arts colleges since 1991.

Remarkably, that legacy of excellence has been eclipsed by even greater accolades in recent years.

In 2008, St. Norbert advanced to U.S. News’ “Best National Liberal Arts Colleges” category. The following year, the college was rated among the top twenty-five percent of American colleges by Forbes magazine.

In 2010, the Princeton Review named St. Norbert one of the best colleges in the Midwest; that same year, the college’s position in the U.S. News rankings rose a stunning 14 places.

For these and other reasons, St. Norbert is being talked about — and the conversation is taking place in venues as diverse and respected as The Wall Street Journal, The Chronicle of Higher Education and Time magazine.

All of this strongly suggests that a unique chapter in St. Norbert history is unfolding ... and additional evidence is not hard to find.

Look no further than the student body. Despite a difficult economy, we are attracting outstanding students of notable achievement. The class of 2014 is not just the largest in school history, but the most accomplished, with the highest grade point averages and test scores of any entering class — ever.
Academic credentials only begin to tell the story; however. The young men and women now enrolled here also bear an impressive résumé of achievements in the arts, athletics, leadership and community service.

If the caliber of our students is high, so, too, is the quality of our faculty. Excellence abounds in our classrooms and laboratories.

St. Norbert faculty are passionate and effective teachers, respected researchers, and, often, nationally and internationally known in their fields. In their individual achievements, they are newsmakers; in the lives of their students, they are difference-makers.

Then, too, there is the institution itself, more than ever a prominent voice in our communities — local, regional, national, global. St. Norbert today is an innovative collaborator with other colleges and universities; a respected partner of businesses and organizations; and a champion of the mission to which our Norbertine, Catholic heritage calls us. We are engaged to a greater extent than ever before with the world around us.

To consider all these things is to reach an inescapable conclusion: This is a watershed moment for St. Norbert College.
If you cry “forward,” you must without fail make plain in what direction to go.

Anton Chekhov

Great things have been accomplished at St. Norbert, to be sure.

We believe still greater things lie ahead.

In this fast-unfolding century, all institutions of higher learning must confront new realities. Changing demographics, evolving technology, an uncertain economy and an ever-shrinking globe create challenges that strike at the very core of what colleges and universities do. These challenges are profound.

At St. Norbert, it is not in our nature to meet them timidly.

We choose instead to meet them boldly and nimbly; to use them as stepping stones to an even stronger future.

What we see before us is the opportunity to take St. Norbert College even farther than it has already come — to make it a beacon for those who embrace the unique rewards of a liberal arts education.

We have laid out a comprehensive strategic plan to help us achieve our vision for the institution; we are confident it is a sound one.

The way forward is clear. The time is now.

With that conviction, we are ready to get underway.
Dear Friends,

If timing really is everything, here’s something I can say with absolute certainty:
This is St. Norbert’s time.

Since 1898, an unbroken chain of dedicated people — starting with Abbot Pennings and including faculty, staff and generous supporters like you — forged the remarkable college we know today. Now we invite you to help us chart an even more exceptional future.

As you know, we have established some challenging but realistic goals for St. Norbert College. Among these: joining the ranks of the top five Catholic liberal arts colleges in the nation; enhancing an academically robust experience that reflects our Norbertine values and traditions; securing enough financial aid to support all qualified students who want to be here; embracing diversity in all its forms; and serving our local and global communities. We have developed a comprehensive strategic plan that is the blueprint for this exciting journey.

Now we need the fuel for that journey — and that’s where you come in.

We are proud to announce Campaign St. Norbert: Full Ahead. In these pages, you will learn more about how your support is directly connected to our success. You will learn about the great opportunities that lie before us. And you will meet individuals whose lives and careers testify to what “the St. Norbert experience” really means.

Together, we can ensure that future generations benefit from the St. Norbert experience, too. Please join me as we move “Full Ahead.”

Best regards,

Thomas Kunkel
President, St. Norbert College
If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.

Henry Ford
With the launch of Campaign St. Norbert: Full Ahead, we embark on a journey to put St. Norbert firmly among the leading institutions of Catholic liberal-arts education.

We will do so by turning our attention, our energies and our resources toward five critical goals:

- Providing financial aid for students.
- Strengthening faculty programs.
- Building a new center for the sciences.
- Enriching the student experience.
- Enhancing existing facilities.

When we secure these foundational elements, we will be well-positioned to achieve the targets set forth in our strategic plan, and to propel St. Norbert College in its second century to new heights.
At convocation.
TO CREATE OPPORTUNITY:

PROVIDING FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDENTS
Students come to our college community from the full spectrum of backgrounds and cultures, to discover their true vocations and to pursue the careers they dream of – as educators and entrepreneurs, as doctors and nurses, as authors and artists, scientists and mathematicians, economists and ecclesiastics.

But some young men and women, whom we would welcome here, do not come ... for the simple reason that it is financially beyond their grasp. Despite their savings, their hard work, and a patchwork of grants and loans, there remains an affordability gap.

While we do our best, we cannot always fully close that gap. As a result, some students must choose other institutions – and some must choose none at all. Their dreams, we are unable to help fulfill.

We will change that through Campaign St. Norbert: Full Ahead.
When Steve Schneider was 14, he knew he wanted to go to college; he just wasn’t sure how he was going to get there. Growing up in a farm family of modest means, he knew that finances would be an issue.

So he did what any normal 14-year-old would do. He started a business. He raised cucumbers — three acres of them. And as he progressed through high school, he began sorting and hauling them, too.

But even Steve’s remarkable work ethic couldn’t bring a St. Norbert education entirely within reach. It wasn’t going to happen without financial aid.

Thankfully, through the support of the college’s alumni and friends, Steve was able to enroll and get his degree. Today, his entrepreneurial spirit continues to find expression through a diverse array of successful enterprises. But while it has kept him so busy that his life has “not been caught up since the 7th grade,” Steve does find time for one thing in particular: giving back to St. Norbert.

Because having been lent a hand himself, he feels a special satisfaction in extending his own to others.
Through Campaign St. Norbert: Full Ahead, we will increase the financial support we are able to offer students in need.

We will provide more and greater opportunities for disadvantaged students, through programs including Upward Bound and the innovative Admission Possible, both of which prepare deserving students for college success.

The campaign will also ensure aid is available for students from working-class families, for whom tuition payments are pitted squarely, often overwhelmingly, against the costs of supporting a household.

In truth, there are few of our students, regardless of background, for whom financial aid is not of critical importance; fully 97% of those currently enrolled depend on it. We seek to provide the help each one of them requires.

Additionally, the campaign will fund merit-based scholarships that will attract students of high caliber to St. Norbert, further enhancing the rich dialogue that takes place on our campus every day.

Through these measures, we will provide young men and women with the support that, coupled with their own hard work, will allow them to attain their dream of a St. Norbert College education.

**Fully 97% of St. Norbert students depend on some form of financial aid.**
If not for financial aid, music education major Aaron Reynolds couldn’t have come to St. Norbert. And if not for Aaron Reynolds, the campus community would be diminished.

Like so many St. Norbert students who benefit from financial assistance, Aaron firmly believes in giving back. He shares his musical gifts through the Knights on Broadway and Knight Theatre. He is a First-Year Experience mentor, a residence hall volunteer, a TKE member and a counselor to multi-cultural students. He’s especially committed to helping others experience the college in the ways he has.

“The sense of community and family here at St. Norbert is just incredible,” he says. “Just being able to talk with people that aren’t my family: if you go to a huge school, you can’t do that. You can’t make an intimate connection. Here at St. Norbert, you can make a connection with almost anyone.”

When he counsels homesick students, Aaron reassures them there’s always someone — him — available to help, “so they get that sense that someone actually cares.”

Mutual esteem, trust, faith, sincerity and responsibility ... for Aaron Reynolds, the tenets of communio define his college experience. So when he says of St. Norbert, “This is the right place for me,” it’s hard to disagree.
TO FOSTER EXCELLENCE:

STRENGTHENING FACULTY AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
Those who are truly passionate about teaching are drawn to liberal arts colleges like ours. They come because, in the intimate classrooms here, they can instruct small groups of students, open their eyes to the wonders of the world – and change lives.

St. Norbert College faculty are engaged with and committed to our students to a remarkable degree. That is in evidence every day, inside and outside our classrooms.

Consistently, our students point to the one-on-one attention they receive from faculty as the best part of their college experience; just as consistently, our alumni point to faculty members who had a transformational effect on their lives.

Simply put, St. Norbert faculty prepare our students for the world, and they do so with exceptional passion and skill.

Through Campaign St. Norbert: Full Ahead, we will provide them with the tools they need to continue in this noble cause.
St. Norbert was far from the only school competing for the services of acclaimed composer and scholar Blake Henson. He had his choice of several prestigious institutions.

In his interviews at other schools, people kept asking, “Why do you want to be here?” Blake’s response was consistent and sincere: “Because I want to change the world.”

He remembers the reaction. “At the first college, the interviewer laughed when I said it. Another one gave me a smirk and a ‘No, seriously.’”

But here, Blake heard a different response:

“Us, too.”

At St. Norbert, “Every person I said that to looked at me and said, ‘I hope we can help.’ This is the first place that understood the seriousness of that charge.”

For Professor Henson, the choice was clear. He joined the St. Norbert faculty in the fall of 2010, and, in the company of like-minded individuals, he is pursuing his mission.
From the Wyoming desert, to the Andes, to the banks of our own Fox River, you will find St. Norbert faculty engaged in research projects in virtually every discipline. These projects do more than advance faculty scholarship; they provide rich source material for classroom instruction. Through the campaign, we will provide robust support for these projects, in full recognition of their contribution to the academy.

At St. Norbert, our students have uncommon opportunity to collaborate with faculty. Some of those collaborations occur on campus ... others in places as remote as Antarctica and the Galapagos.

Whether in the natural sciences, the humanities, or the social sciences, such collaborations are often transformative for our students. The campaign will make it possible to offer more such opportunities, enriching student learning and providing distinctive experiences to help propel them to both graduate programs and professional success.
Higher education has seen a revolution over the past decade – one that, at St. Norbert, Marcie Paul has been helping to lead.

There is dramatic movement, she says, “toward more high-impact learning practices. We’re engaging students in service-learning projects … living-learning communities … faculty-student collaborations. There’s more and more a sense of porousness, that the classroom is not the centerpiece. Learning goes on in residence halls, associations, faculty-student meetings … there’s a sense of us working together as a team to teach students holistically.”

Not surprisingly, that sort of work takes deep commitment – something Dr. Paul says the college actively seeks out when hiring new professors. The interview process is strenuous, and emphasizes that St. Norbert is “absolutely focused on student learning. We ask what they could bring to the mission, we ask about their teaching philosophy … we make very clear that teaching is their first priority.”

As a result, St. Norbert is filled with people who simply love to teach – like Marcie herself, who has been doing it for twenty-six years. She cherishes the opportunity to profoundly impact students’ lives, to share the St. Norbert experience, and to be part of a community she now considers – as so many do – extended family.
TO REVEAL THE WORLD:
BUILDING A NEW CENTER FOR THE SCIENCES
It is the essence of St. Norbert College to embrace both faith and reason. Our faith, eternal and unflagging, provides our roots. Reason, striving ever toward the light of new knowledge and understanding, provides our branches.

In few places can we better affirm our passion for inquiry and our quest for knowledge than in our science facilities.

The completion of the John R. Minihan Science Hall more than 40 years ago was just such an affirmation. But the world has changed greatly since then. The tools of scientific inquiry are new; technological change has been profound; knowledge evolves with breathtaking speed.

There was a day when American education required little more than a one-room schoolhouse. Today it needs a synthetic chemistry lab.

Facilities matter. We must keep pace.

Through Campaign St. Norbert: Full Ahead, we will keep pace — and much more. Not content merely to bring the institution’s science facilities into the 21st century, we will construct them to help us define it.
Michael Foley didn’t know exactly what he wanted to study when he came to St. Norbert. Dr. Dave Klopotek changed that.

Foley credits Klopotek, a longtime St. Norbert chemistry professor, with getting him hooked on the subject.

“He drew a lot of us into being chemistry majors. He was this incredible professor. You wanted to be like him and you didn’t want to let him down when you left.”

Thus inspired, Foley went on to earn his Ph.D. in chemistry at Harvard. Today he is director of chemical biology at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, building the foundations for future life-saving drugs.

Dr. Foley knows that today’s St. Norbert students continue to be educated and inspired by people like Dave Klopotek – but he also knows that no professor, however talented, can lead students to science’s next frontier without the right tools and facilities.

“A new science building is simply not optional at this point,” he says. “A great liberal arts college has to have a great science department.”

Dr. Foley believes that with the proper facilities, St. Norbert will not only maintain its reputation for excellence in the sciences, but will be positioned to educate a new generation of scientists in ways few other institutions can. With its Norbertine, Catholic, liberal arts heritage, St. Norbert is uniquely able to help students examine the moral and philosophical issues that increasingly surround cutting-edge science.

“There is just something different at St. Norbert,” he says. “It sets the bar for what you ought to be.”
Our vision of the center for the sciences is a bold one.

We will equip our faculty and students to work on the leading edge of science and mathematics. The new center will include state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment for organic and synthetic chemistry ... geology ... physics ... microbiology and immunology.

Likewise, there will be lab facilities for anatomy, physiology, robotics, psychology and more.

Ample accommodations will be provided for both faculty and collaborative research – the latter being among the most valuable experiences St. Norbert students can have.

We will build technologically advanced “smart” classrooms and lecture halls for both mathematics and science.

**IT WILL CELEBRATE THE CAPACITY AND DESIRE OF HUMAN BEINGS TO EXPLORE AND UNDERSTAND THE WORLD.**
Imagine a Society for Neuroscience conference, and you’d probably picture a room full of sage, mature scientists—not a fresh-faced undergrad. But that’s exactly where Ashley Ash was her senior year, presenting a paper she coauthored with professor of biology Dr. David Bailey.

In any other institution, it would be rare to see undergrads doing this kind of graduate level work, but St. Norbert actively fosters student-faculty research collaborations across every discipline. “Intellectually, St. Norbert was incredibly challenging,” Ash says. “You’re pushed to your limits, and you’re held up to an incredibly high standard, and that just makes your experience all the more valuable.”

Today Ashley is pursuing a doctoral degree in physical therapy. When she looks back on her undergraduate years, and on the faculty who both taught and inspired her, she says: “St. Norbert College has done wonders for who I am today. I’m a lot more confident in myself and my abilities because I was so challenged at St. Norbert College. Now I know what I can do and I know what I’m capable of, and St. Norbert helped me realize that.”
The planned facility spans five stories and 150,000 square feet—and we will utilize every inch. Even the rooftop will be a locus of activity, with demonstration solar panels and wind turbines, laboratory storage, observation decks, and a tower room for both formal instruction and informal discussion.

The new center for the sciences will include a museum, housing both permanent collections and visiting exhibits.

Not just functionally but aesthetically, the center will be a magnificent addition to the St. Norbert campus. Interior spaces will be open, inviting and inspiring.

In every respect, the center will celebrate the capacity and desire of human beings to explore and understand the world in which we live. But it will do something more: Integral to the center’s design will be dramatic, soaring atrium windows. Framed and embraced by those windows, the graceful lines of Old St. Joseph Church will reafﬁrm for every visitor the essential harmony of faith and reason.
We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we are curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.

Walt Disney
TO EDUCATE FULLY:

ENRICHING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE
liberal arts colleges are united by a single premise; that the best education is based equally on intellectual, moral and personal development. And it is well understood that such development occurs not just within classroom walls, but outside them, as well.

At this institution, our Norbertine Catholic tradition further strengthens the conviction that students learn the most — and learn most deeply — when they are fully engaged.

And so we do engage them ... and marvel at their transformation.

For some, a trip to a foreign country opens their eyes to the vastness of the world, the richness of its cultures and the depths of its needs.

Others find within our local community the opportunity to apply their growing knowledge for the good of all.

Still others discover on the campus itself new ways to express themselves, new interests to explore, new strengths and aptitudes. They learn to collaborate ... to inspire ... to lead.

In the process, they develop deep and lasting friendships. They discover their passions. They come to know their world. And most important, they come to know themselves.

Through the campaign, we will bring greater resources to bear to help our students in their journey of development and discovery.
Business administration major Keri Hodnik already knows she’s going to be “one of those parents.”

One of those parents, she says, who passionately recommend their alma mater to their own children.

Beyond excellent academics, which initially drew her here, Keri now sees St. Norbert as a place of almost unlimited opportunities — a remarkable number of which she has seized herself. Just a few semesters into college, the business major has already been the student government’s finance coordinator; VP of marketing for Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE); a member and officer of the Honors program; an intern at two different community businesses; a Boys and Girls Club volunteer; and a member of a campus living/learning community. Up next: a semester — and an internship — in London.

With involvement, Keri says, has come a strong sense of belonging: “The college makes sure that everybody experiences a sense of community and the Norbertine tradition of *communio*. St. Norbert keeps that opportunity alive everywhere you go. This campus, this community, makes sure that this is your home, and the place you will forever remember and cherish.”

Looking again into the future, she says, “I’m going to be telling my kids: I loved my school!”
"We knew this would be a good fit for him."

When Tracy Arndt sent son Jay off to St. Norbert, she knew he’d receive an excellent education. But she also sensed he’d be growing outside the classroom, as well.

From their first campus visit, the Arndts were impressed with the way students are encouraged to become involved and engaged in the college community. Tracy was especially moved by the attitude of the college’s student groups and organizations. They weren’t focused on calling attention to themselves or merely generating recruits; instead, they were warm and welcoming. The message, she says, was “Come be a part of us.” It was the embodiment of the spirit of communio that informs all the college strives to do.

Jay embraced the opportunity – and near the end of his St. Norbert College career, the family would come to recognize just what an impact communio makes on students here.

Attending a friend’s graduation at a prestigious East Coast college, Tracy says they were struck by how many of the new grads “had no plans for the future. A lot of them were going off to do a year abroad someplace. There was no real sense of urgency about taking your place in the world, having a spot in your community, contributing in some way. And I think St. Norbert provided that opportunity for our son, and he feels really well prepared to take on his life.”
It’s a long way from De Pere to Swaziland – a distance measured in more than just miles.

Summa cum laude graduate, Fulbright fellow and Brandeis doctoral candidate Casey Golomski is in Swaziland exploring the kingdom’s unique culture, rituals and religious practices – and specifically how they are being impacted by one of the world’s most severe AIDS epidemics.

He credits St. Norbert with inspiring his deep interest in these topics. The Norbertine, Catholic, liberal-arts tradition, he says, “encourages students to take a full range of courses, including them in conversations they may not be privy to at a larger university.” Being exposed to religious studies, philosophy, history and the natural sciences helped him expand his intellectual horizons.

While he gained invaluable practical knowledge at St. Norbert – his collaborative work with faculty gave him a strong grounding in conference presentation, archival research and ethnographic study – the totality of his experience here provided something much deeper.

“My education allowed me to see a diverse trajectory and arena of world religions … to consider different forms of spirituality and answers to broader existential questions … to think about philosophical issues. It allowed me to develop a singular, confident voice and take on bigger questions about culture.”
Through the campaign, we will increase our support for student programs, from those dedicated to academic excellence and student governance, to those in which like-minded individuals explore matters of culture, faith and diversity.

We will strengthen our support for the Peace and Justice Center, dedicated to the study and practice of peacebuilding and advancing the common good.

We will expand opportunities for students to link service to their studies, through innovative partnerships cultivated by the Center for Community Service Learning.

Campaign funds will also allow us to attract thought leaders in every field to come to our campus to speak and inspire.

They will enable us to underwrite student travel, nationally and internationally, for service, coursework and research.

They will help us continue the remarkable strides being made in our Honors Program, attracting highly motivated student-scholars into a diverse and dynamic intellectual community.

In short, with resources generated through Campaign St. Norbert: Full Ahead, we will bring the world to our students, and our students to the world — thereby enriching both.
Avery Garcia had her sights set on a big university – until she laid eyes on St. Norbert.

She fell in love with the campus the first time she visited. Avery thought she might have a real opportunity here – to get involved, to have a voice, and to make a difference.

She was right: In her four years at St. Norbert, Avery became the embodiment of engagement and commitment.

She joined Global Scholars, and Alpha Xi Delta sorority. She created and coordinated the CommUNITY Scholars living-learning program. She was a First Year Experience Mentor. She studied abroad in Peru and Ireland.

But she made her mark indelibly as a passionate and eloquent advocate for the college’s multi-cultural community. She was on the planning committee for Latino recruitment. She was both a mentor and a program coordinator in the Students Taking Academic Responsibility (STAR) program for multi-cultural and first-generation students. She served as student representative and advisor on the president’s Council for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – providing a critical voice for students. She played a leading role in the establishment of the college’s multi-cultural center. Her tireless engagement caused one faculty member to marvel at her “passion for equity beyond her years.”

In her time at St. Norbert, Avery helped re-imagine and reshape the college experience for multi-cultural students. The college is richer for it – and so is she:

“You have so much access,” she says. “It’s helped me become more confident. I’ve had so many leadership opportunities that I don’t think I would have had anywhere else ... to be able to give my input has helped me grow so much, both intellectually and as a person.”
Join us

We can only steer St. Norbert toward its bright future with the help of others who share our vision.

We need partners in leadership, individuals who are as determined as we are to see our great college flourish.

May we count you among them?

If so, let us help you direct your support in a way that is truly meaningful to you.

You may feel called to provide deserving students financial aid ... or to nourish the programs that transform their lives ... or to support the faculty that shepherd them on their journey. You may be inspired to quite literally provide the building blocks of a new St. Norbert College through the construction of our science center. Or you may have a vision uniquely your own.

Whatever you feel called to do, you can count on us to work with you to find the fullest expression of your interests and your passions, as you help us navigate this transformative period in college history.

Campaign St. Norbert: FULL AHEAD

- $20 million in student financial aid, including endowed scholarships and fellowships.
- $15 million to provide faculty development resources and increase the scope of academic programs
- $35 million for creation of a new facility for the natural sciences.
- $10 million for enhancements to the student experience.
- $10 million for improvements to our facilities.

Campaign Co-Chairs:

Dan and Nancy Dickinson
Hawthorn Woods, Illinois

Ed ’71 and Ann ’72 Sturzl
Plymouth, Wisconsin

Mike Van Asten ’75
Fremont, Wisconsin
A MESSAGE FROM BILL AURIEMMA ’77
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I didn’t know much about colleges when I first encountered St. Norbert.
My father’s family were Italian immigrants: Dad drove a beer truck and my mom was a hairdresser. I was the first in my family to graduate high school.

I came to St. Norbert because it felt right – and because the college gave a young man the financial help he needed to attend.

I know a lot more about colleges today – particularly this one. As board chairman, I’ve had the opportunity to see the great strides the college has made in the past ten years. We’ve made critical infrastructure improvements, recruited promising students, graduated outstanding citizens, and assembled a faculty I wouldn’t trade for any other.

And we have big plans. You’ve read about them here: endowed chairs, scholarships, a science building, enhanced student programs. To achieve them will require resources – and your help.

But why should you devote your resources to Campaign St. Norbert: Full Ahead?

For one, your investment will be managed wisely. As someone intimately familiar with the workings of the college, I can tell you it is extraordinarily well-led. President Tom Kunkel and the team he has assembled are careful and adept stewards of college resources. Their financial management is first-rate ... indeed, there are many in the private sector who could take a page or two from St. Norbert’s playbook.

But just as important as knowing your gift will be well tended is this: Supporting St. Norbert will allow you to make a direct difference – to have a direct impact on lives. Spend some time with St. Norbert students and you’ll see why your investment here is money well spent. This little place in De Pere, Wisconsin, is really putting out a disproportionate number of difference-makers.

In a needy world, there’s constant competition for our compassion and our resources. Because we can’t provide help to everyone in need, I believe each of us has to pick out a few places where we, too, can be difference-makers.

Someone did that for me nearly forty years ago. Someone at St. Norbert was there to make it possible for me to be the first in my family to attend college.

I’m passionate in my desire to now do the same for others. I hope you’ll join me.

Best regards,

Bill Auriemma
A family huddle decided it.

The Michels family has a long history with St. Norbert College. Ruth and her late husband, Dale, sent three of their children here, and granddaughter Michelle is a student today.

The Michelses had given generously to the college before. But they wanted to do even more ... to make a truly transformative gift to the college.

There was just one thing: It had to “feel like them.” It had to be true to the family and its values.

The quality of the student experience has long held a special place in the Michelses’ hearts. As Dale and Ruth’s son Pat (’81), a member of the college’s board of trustees, says, excellent facilities help develop excellent people. So when they heard from St. Norbert leadership about the aging student union, it struck an immediate chord.

The family huddled, quite literally, outside the union. And they quickly reached a decision they shared with President Kunkel: They would underwrite the complete transformation of the old facility into a state-of-the-art dining and gathering place ... one that would dramatically change the student experience on campus.

When Michels Commons is completed in May 2012, it will be a stirring example of how passion for an institution can find expression through creative, meaningful giving.
Mike and Mimi Ariens met at St. Norbert more than a half-century ago. Their love affair with the college has lasted every bit as long as their own.

They sent six of their children here. One granddaughter is a current student, and another is on the way. Three generations, ten Arienses, and counting.

Like any long-lasting relationship, the one between the Arienses and St. Norbert is anchored by a strong belief that the best is yet to come. They’re impressed at how beautifully the college has aged, but equally impressed with the recent signs of a bright future, including a library – the Mulva – that Mimi describes as “awesome.”

And they’re most impressed by the way the college opens its arms not just to new generations of students, but to the entire community. From the library to Knights on the Fox to theatre performances to speaking engagements, they effortlessly tick off the many ways the college extends a warm welcome to all.

In 2010, the Arienses demonstrated their appreciation for Norbertine hospitality in a bold way: they funded the Ariens Family Welcome Center, the new “front door” of the college for prospective students, their families and other visitors.

As a donor, Mike speaks of the “intense necessity for faith” in providing support to an institution – faith he finds through his belief that St. Norbert is being adroitly led.

Thanks to that faith, today we can add to the growing list of “awesome” places on campus our new welcome center – a tribute to both Norbertine ideals and the love affair between one family and their college.
Wayne Lubner is an Alma Mater Award recipient and an ardent supporter of St. Norbert College. He recently made clear why he feels “St. Norbert is an easy place to help”:

“What I took away from St. Norbert College was a great feeling of friendship — a great feeling of fellowship. Some of the best days of my life were spent here. Some people come out of school merely with academic credentials; at St. Norbert, I came out with a lot of life lessons. It teaches you a lot about who you are ... but also about who the people are you are surrounded by. It teaches students the balance of life, and what friendships and relationships mean.

“What I found was a collegial relationship where people pulled together. It wasn’t me competing with someone else. We were all working together to make ourselves better. The people on campus were pulling for you, were pulling for your success, for you to be a better person.

“St. Norbert is all about creating the climate and opportunities for young people to innovate and do great things. When you talk about homelessness, poverty, natural disasters ... the people who are creating solutions are products of the American educational system. So what we’re talking about is an investment not only in the future of the students, but in the future of our country — because innovation is going to come from people who are well-prepared, well-balanced and thoughtful. And St. Norbert leads the way.”

“Look at the experience you had here, and reflect back on what you received. Take stock in that and see how you applied it. Then think about the difference you can make by investing now in St. Norbert College.”
These are momentous times for St. Norbert College. The idealism of our students, the commitment of our faculty, the stewardship of our leaders and the moral guidance of the Norbertines have brought us here.

Now, those same forces inspire us to go forward.

We have the wind at our backs and the goal is in sight. Set out with us...

FULL AHEAD.
Campaign St. Norbert: FULL AHEAD.