

# CONTINUUM

THE NEWSLETTER OF CAMPAIGN ST. NORBERT: FULL AHEAD | OCT. 2014



Learning Beyond the Classroom:  
THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE AT ST. NORBERT





CAMPAIGN GOAL:  
TO EDUCATE FULLY  
**Enriching  
the Student  
Experience**

WE BELIEVE STUDENTS  
LEARN MOST DEEPLY WHEN  
THEY ARE FULLY ENGAGED  
INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE  
CLASSROOM.

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.

SEE A VIDEO ON THE  
STUDENT EXPERIENCE:  
[GIVING.SNC.EDU/PRIORITIES/  
STUDENTEXPERIENCE.HTML](http://GIVING.SNC.EDU/PRIORITIES/STUDENTEXPERIENCE.HTML)

CAMPAIGN ST. NORBERT:  
**FULL AHEAD**

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY  
AND COMMITMENT OF OUR  
FRIENDS, THE CAMPAIGN  
HAS MET ITS ORIGINAL GOAL  
OF \$90 MILLION AND IS  
STEAMING ONWARD.



**T**here is a richness to college life  
that derives only in part from  
the classroom experience. For all that  
an exceptional liberal arts college like  
ours imparts to students academically,  
their lives are impacted in myriad other ways during their  
four years here.

Students learn the true meaning of friendship as they  
bond with their roommates and floormates in residence  
halls; they gain a deep appreciation of teamwork through  
participation in athletics, and they learn the joys of  
community when they cheer from the sidelines. They  
grow in spirit when they open their hearts and minds  
to the world through study abroad, volunteer work  
and passionate support of good causes. They become  
more engaged, aware citizens when they attend a  
lecture, participate in a forum, or rally around an idea.  
They enrich themselves through music and theatre  
performance, fine arts and other expressions of culture  
and creativity.

All of that is part of the St. Norbert College

experience – and none of it happens by accident.  
Recognizing our fundamental charge to “educate the  
whole student,” we are very intentional about the  
opportunities we provide.

So highly do we value this aspect of higher education,  
in fact, that we have made it a focal point of Campaign  
St. Norbert: Full Ahead. The \$10 million we have  
targeted for purposes of enriching the student experience  
will encourage the full blossoming of our young men  
and women into accomplished, compassionate and  
thoughtful citizens of the world.

I can’t think of a better use of college resources; can  
you?

Cheers!

**Phil Oswald**  
*Vice President of College Advancement*



**\$90**  
MILLION  
GOAL

**\$90**  
MILLION  
RAISED



## Spirit of giving strong in our students



THE 2013 DANCE MARATHON RAISED OVER \$21,000 FOR THE CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK.

While Campaign St. Norbert: Full Ahead seeks to raise funds to enhance the student experience, many of our students are busy raising funds themselves – in some cases to support their student organizations, and in others to support worthy causes in our community and far beyond.

Sometimes those fundraising initiatives get pretty creative – highlighting the youthful exuberance that infuses our campus with so much energy and positive spirit.

Dance Marathon is an organization formed last year to support the Children's Miracle Network, and their primary fundraiser is – not surprisingly – a dance marathon. To be more precise, a half-marathon: Each student commits to dancing nonstop for 13.1 hours (the hourly equivalent of a half-marathon race's mileage), and solicits pledges from friends, family and community members in exchange.

Dance Marathon co-president **Ryan Engesser '15** (the subject of this issue's student profile) says the group's fundraising efforts aren't limited to money to be donated to the network: "We also seek out donations from local business and individuals to help us put on events throughout the year. For example, we connect with many families in the Children's Miracle Network, and we want to help them not just monetarily, but with fellowship and support, so we hold events like a tailgate party for the children and their parents. We look to outside sources to help us provide things like food and drink, sound systems for music, decorations and so on."

Other student organizations exhibit a similar giving spirit. Up 'Til Dawn is a student initiative in support of St. Jude's Children's Hospital. On a selected night, hundreds of students gather together to write letters requesting donations on the hospital's behalf, working into the wee

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## Seizing the day

For a liberal arts college of our size, St. Norbert offers a remarkable range of opportunities to learn, grow and get involved. Every student can point to organizations, teams, volunteer efforts and other aspects of student life in which they've participated.

Even among this engaged student body, however, there are some who stand out for the zeal with which they grasp the opportunities St. Norbert offers them.

**Ryan Engesser '15** is one of those. A senior from St. Charles, Ill., Ryan is double-majoring in international business and French, with a minor in German. He is president and co-founder of Dance Marathon, a student organization supporting the Children's Miracle Network. He is also co-president of Discoveries International, which runs a store selling goods from developing countries; the proceeds support charities in those countries.

Enactus is another organization benefiting from Ryan's leadership. He is president of the business-focused group, and was instrumental in establishing its Community Supporting Agriculture (CSA) partnership with local Hmong farmers.

Ryan is the social chair (previously president) of men's social group ADMAR (Adults Displaying Maturity And Responsibility), a member of the Leadership Honors Society, and a mentor to emerging leaders.

In prior years, Ryan founded and served as president of the French Club; served in the Student Government Association; represented students on the college's board of trustees; interned in the Alumni Office; and tutored students in economics, French and German. As a junior, he spent a semester in France.



RYAN ENGESSE '15

A Dean's List student with a 3.6 grade point average, Ryan has earned the college's Student Life Award, Diversity Leadership Scholarship Award, Exemplary Leadership Award and Sally Thompson Endowed Scholarship, among other distinctions.

This remarkable young man is very clear about what has spurred his exceptional involvement: "Most people may not know, but I was not an engaged high school student," he says. "I had the 'want' to do big things and serve those around me. But I never had the motivation and drive to do so. St. Norbert actually introduced me to service, and helping others. Now, I am hooked on serving the community; it's so exhilarating, and it has become one of my greatest motivators."

He feels that the college gives him a safe place to grow and give: "Not just safe as in security. But safe to voice opinion, safe to start something new, and safe to make a difference. Because doing all those things is scary, and it takes a lot of guts. But at St. Norbert, they are everywhere around you; they are a part of our culture."



hours to finish the task.

Choosing the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as their cause, sorority Delta Phi Epsilon holds a “color run,” marshaling students to reach a certain pledge level in exchange for the privilege of running across campus in white T-shirts, being “chalk-bombed” by others tossing colored powder until the runners resemble fast-moving rainbows.

The campus chapter of Colleges Against Cancer, during its Relay for Life program, raises additional funds through a “Dude Looks Like a Lady” event in which male students “glam themselves up” in women’s clothing and auction themselves off as dates (apparently oblivious to the old adage that photos last forever!)

Creative fundraising is not new among St. Norbert students. Back in 2012, **Ted Schoenleber ’13** made the decision to enter the Army’s Officer Candidate School after graduation, a choice that did not square with his hairstyle at the time – long and flowing locks. Deciding to make lemons from the lemonade of a thorough shearing, Ted auctioned off the right to take a swipe at his mane with scissors, and raised nearly \$1,200 for the St. Norbert Cancer



ABOVE: IN 2012, TED SCHOENLEBER SOLD OFF HIS LONG DREADLOCKS AND BEARD FOR LOCKS FOR LOVE.



AT RIGHT: FRANK KASELL LED WITH HIS CHIN TO RAISE FUNDING FOR THE ZAMBIA PROJECT.

organization at Preble High School in Green Bay. The clipped hair went to Locks of Love, for children who lose their own to chemotherapy.

Then there was **Frank Kasell ’06**, who, in a 2004 fundraising effort for the Zambia Project – dedicated to building schools in that country – attempted to set a Guinness record for most milk crates balanced on one’s chin. He fell short of the record, but the fundraiser was a success. (Not one to be easily deterred, Frank is currently awaiting Guinness confirmation of his record-setting time walking 100 meters with a push lawnmower balanced on his chin.)

What we see in evidence among all these student events, aside from creativity, is initiative in abundance. And we also see the very best of Norbertine values on display in the causes the students support and the fervor with which they do so. Community, mutual esteem, caring for others, making a difference where and when one can ... those are the things our students exhibit – and learn – through these activities, and it’s why we feel that supporting the student experience on campus is such a critical part of Campaign St. Norbert: Full Ahead.

## Supporting a shared vision



TIM REILLEY ’52 AND HIS WIFE, JANET NELSON

**T**he TRIPS (Turning Responsibility Into Powerful Service) program is one of St. Norbert College’s distinctive student service opportunities. Each year, hundreds of students forgo traditional spring and winter breaks to serve the neediest among us in urban and rural settings across the country and beyond.

It’s a program **Tim Reilley ’52** and his wife, **Janet Nelson**, proudly support. For Tim, the work of TRIPS reflects a conviction he first acted on many years ago.

Earlier in life, as a member of the Norbertine order (with which he maintains close ties today), Tim directed the seminary program at St. Norbert Abbey.

“Our seminarians were deeply engaged in their studies, and in prayer,” he says, “but they lacked a sense of what was happening in the larger world around them. I felt it was important for them to get out into the world, to see the reality of it, to witness its needs and wants and ... better understand themselves and their vocation.”

Tim established a service program to take seminarians farther afield. Initially, they volunteered locally; later, Tim brought ten of them to Chicago, to serve for a summer in predominantly African-American parishes. “They learned to care for, and about, people of a different

culture, a different race,” he said. “That’s what community is all about ... that’s what *communio* is all about.”

When they learned about the TRIPS program, Janet says, they both felt called to support it: “TRIPS mirrors the goals of Tim’s seminarian program, as well as its means of achieving them. We strongly believe in service, and in the transformative power of students engaging with people in need, far from the boundaries of campus and far from the boundaries of their own life experience.”

So strong is their belief, in fact, that Tim and Janet have extended their generosity by also including the TRIPS program in their estate planning. That support will help enable students to teach in schools in post-Katrina New Orleans; build affordable housing in Arkansas; work with urban youth in Chicago; and aid the homeless in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. Like the seminarians Tim led many years ago, those students are learning what it means to be global citizens and servants. “Billions of people on this planet live on less than \$2 a day,” says Tim. “We need to see that; we need to engage the problem. We need programs like TRIPS to make the world real to students.”