BRESCKIA NOW!
The Magazine of Brescia University

A Personal Journey of Faith
As we continue our year-long celebration of 60 years of Making a Difference, you are encouraged to attend Homecoming 2010 - a weekend of activities that will take you to Brescia’s past, engage you with Brescia’s present, and share Brescia’s future with you.

Friday evening meet with friends and current students with whom you share an affinity. Student Government Association, education majors, athletes, Broadcast writers, and many more groups will meet on campus to share stories and learn how current students experience the Brescia Difference.

You are also invited to tour Brescia’s Haunted House.

Saturday will include chariot races, tailgating at Kamuf Park Outdoor Sports Complex for the Lady Bearcats soccer game and the annual alumni baseball game, and will culminate with a dinner and dance on campus with students.

Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2010 and look for an invitation in the mail soon!
Summer 2010

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Cover photo: Larry Farmer carrying a cross, symbolizing Jesus’ trek to Golgotha.
(Photo courtesy: Greg Thompson, GPT Photography)
FROM PRESIDENT
LARRY HOSTETTER

W

elcome to the 2010 summer edition of Brescia NOW.

It certainly has been an exciting academic year, which culminated in the awarding of 98 degrees to our graduating seniors and graduate students. As President, this is perhaps my proudest moment when I can personally hand the well-earned diplomas to our departing students. While most of our graduates are from Kentucky, we had representatives from eight other states and four countries. The ages of our graduates were also varied with our oldest finishing a degree at age fifty-five. This year we also graduated the largest class of Master degree recipients since Brescia first began offering graduate programs. Of particular note is the fact that we also graduated our first online degree completion students in social work. Our new Bishop, Most Reverend William Medley, was our commencement speaker and we were pleased to award him an honorary doctorate in humane letters. Bishop Medley reminded our graduates of their responsibility to their fellow human beings and of the opportunities that awaited them. There is no doubt in my mind that our newest graduates will continue the strong tradition of Brescia alumni making a difference in their communities.

As you stroll through this edition of Brescia NOW you will meet other members of the Brescia family who continue to dedicate themselves to the Brescia mission, whether as faculty, staff or student. Their stories highlight the importance of Brescia’s responsibility as a Catholic institution rooted in the 500-year Ursuline tradition of education that transforms both the individual and society. Our newly articulated mission statement expresses this well:

Brescia University is a Catholic, liberal arts institution founded in the Ursuline tradition of personal and social transformation through education. Directed to academic and moral excellence in a student-centered environment, Brescia offers undergraduate and graduate programs that serve students who seek success through rewarding careers and service to others.

Each of these words was carefully chosen over the course of a year by faculty, staff and students with the intent of articulating what Brescia does and who Brescia is called to be. These words give us a sense of purpose and guide us into the future.

Over the next few months, this mission statement, will serve as our guidepost as we finalize our next strategic plan that will direct our activity for the next five years. Whereas the three-year plan we just completed was directed to stabilization and strengthening, the next plan will be characterized by sustainable expansion. In other words, our next plan will direct us to secure Brescia’s growth and expansion in a way that is responsible and sustainable.

So, make sure you check back often over the next year. I expect the new strategic plan to be launched this fall along with other important initiatives, which will ensure that our students will continue to receive the high quality education that is the hallmark of Brescia University.

Fr. Larry Hostetter
President
Brescia University has recently placed a renewed emphasis on the students’ first year. Brescia believes that a solid foundation for students is created during their first year and in order to make it successful for the student, Brescia implemented the First-Year Experience (FYE). This program is specifically for first time, full time students. The theme is Making Connections, Ensuring Success. Lucas Langdon, co-director of FYE, said “It is our firm belief that by taking advantage of this network and the course content (resources, skill building opportunities, engagement experiences, advising and service projects), students will be vastly more successful than they would be without such support.”

Brescia wants students to be fully and properly integrated into the college experience under the guidance of this program. Brescia believes every student is unique and a gift from God; therefore, each student is treated with respect and taught the importance of servant leadership and the hallmarks of a Brescia education, all while making the transition from living at home with parents to a residence hall as smooth as possible.

A student’s FYE actually begins when he or she arrives on campus to register. FYE instructors are the academic advisors for these students for their first year and instruct them in a two-semester Introduction to Brescia course: BU101 and 102. These one-credit hour courses are the crux of FYE because students learn how to use the library’s resources, how to become good stewards of their time, how to balance work and school, and how to integrate into campus life. Each BU101 course has approximately a dozen students.

FYE instructors are paired with a returning Brescia student and together they co-instruct the course. Julie Reynolds ’13 was a peer educator last year. She said she was glad to be part of the program that helped make the transition to college easier, “I gained leadership experience from being a peer educator and it was neat to get to know the group of freshmen.” Julie is returning in the fall to co-instruct again.

Kristin Miller, a sophomore this fall at Brescia, said having a peer educator helped her integrate into life at Brescia, “I felt comfortable asking her about Brescia events.” Kristin also said her peer educator shared good study strategies.

The program kicks off at a four-day New Student Orientation in August. During Orientation, the class will have an opportunity to meet for the first time, begin bonding activities and complete a service project.

During BU101, freshmen learn how to articulate the University’s mission as well as the Brescia Difference and how to apply these to their life. Kristin said the four pillars of the Brescia Difference were emphasized throughout her first semester. She summarized those pillars by saying, “Respect for the Sacred was reflected in the fact that each student is unique and special and that it is important to be good stewards of the earth around us. I learned Devotion...
to Learning through our talks on the importance of taking classes seriously and setting priorities to help us accomplish our academic goals toward ultimately being successful in college. Commitment to Growth in Virtue was illustrated when Father Larry Hostetter came to speak to our class about the different types of virtues and how each person is important, with intrinsic value and worth. The class stressed the importance of continuing to stay true to our values and commitments as we grow older, faced with temptations in college and beyond.” Lastly, Kristin said growing and learning about yourself will help you become a better person, thus Promoting Servant Leadership in the community.

BU102, the second semester course, places an emphasis on a student’s leadership capabilities. Todd Butler, associate academic dean and co-director of FYE, said one of the goals is to have the students form their mission statement indicating where they see themselves in life. They also spend a concentrated amount of time with StrengthsQuest, a program which explores and specifies five major strengths. The student can then take that information and decide on their career path. Kristin said once they discovered their strengths and possible weaknesses, “we were able to set goals for ourselves to use those God-given strengths to our best benefit.”

Next spring, all BU102 classes will read a book entitled, *Three Cups of Tea*, a number one *New York Times* bestseller. It is a story about how one person with the right mix of character and determination can make a difference. Students will then write a paper on what they learned from reading this book.

Todd said he has high hopes for the program, “We want it to be the best program to help each student in the classroom and teach them Brescia’s traditions.” This fall will be the second year of FYE. Lucas Langdon said while a successful program, “I am looking forward to putting into place an even stronger program. We have taken advantage of every opportunity to solicit critical feedback and assess the program, and I think we’ve found some ways to make a great program even better.”
The instructors, Brescia faculty and staff with at least a master’s level education, are encouraged to use diverse techniques to keep the students involved and engaged. Josh Clary, Director of Alumni Relations and FYE instructor, integrated multimedia tools such as YouTube, Facebook and an ongoing blog to stay connected to his students. Kristin said Josh was creative in teaching class. “It wasn’t just worksheets and lectures. I remember one class in which Josh took out a roll of raw Pillsbury biscuit dough to teach us about ourselves!”

Each instructor requires their students to keep a journal throughout the semester. The number of journal entries is up to the instructor to decide. The purpose of journaling is to force students to be intrinsic and explore their feelings, thoughts, goals, and dreams. Kristin said through journaling, “I think I learned about myself to a much greater depth.”

One of the main aspects of FYE is the service projects. The first service project the students perform occurs during Orientation. Another service project must be performed as a group sometime during the semester. Each student writes a reflection paper on their experience.

“I think it is one class that I will always remember long after my college days are [over],” said Kristin.

New Student Orientation takes place this year August 21-24. BU101 classes will begin that week, imparting the Brescia mission and tradition into a new generation of students.
Sr. Sharon Sullivan - Academic Dean
Elected Ursuline Congregational Leader

Brescia University says good-bye to our academic dean, Sister Sharon Sullivan, OSU, after more than 25 years of service to the University in various capacities.

Sr. Sharon was elected on December 29 to a six-year term as congregational leader of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. She took office July 18, 2010.

Sr. Sharon has filled many roles at Brescia and took a moment to reflect on her time at the University:

“It is almost impossible to reflect on leaving Brescia unless I first reflect on arriving at Brescia. I first came to Brescia in Fall 1972 as a part-time, non-traditional, post-graduate student seeking special education information to help my Girl Scout work. I ‘bumped into’ Sr. George Ann Cecil and was almost immediately snared by the Brescia difference and the Ursuline founding charism. Although I did not have the background to apprehend those insights at the time, I was captivated nonetheless. I was not even Catholic when I came as a student but was open to that exploration.

The group that would become the Class of 1975 embraced and adopted this non-traditional student and opened to me the multiple co-curricular opportunities offered at that time. Even after I completed the special education teacher certification program and left Brescia as a student, Brescia remained my faith home. Student teachers from the Brescia teacher education program came to my special education class each year I taught. I was back on campus almost immediately beginning my master’s program through the consortium of universities in Owensboro; Brescia had offered its library and classroom space to that program, helping many of its own graduates in the process.

When I was a newly vowed Ursuline sister, the Ursuline leadership told me that since I had ‘directed Girl Scout camps and taught special education,’ I should be a good bet as housing director for freshmen college students. So I came again to Brescia in 1984 as Director of Housing for all its resident students; within a year I was teaching special education as well. For a couple of years, I even served as one of the campus ministers in the experimental campus ministry team. By 1987 I was teaching full time in the teacher education program. The rest is history, so to speak.”

The history Sr. Sharon refers to includes becoming the chair of the Education, Social and Behavioral Studies program at Brescia in 1999, and in 2004 becoming chair of the School of Education.

From left to right: Sr. Sharon, Barbara Ann Bowen ’05, Tina Wolken ’78, Julie Wood Dunn ’06, Mary Alice Wethington ’82, and Stacey Holtman Freels ’05.
Sr. Sharon brought Brescia national recognition through serving as one of 15 on the National Advisory Board for PRAXIS II Special Education Teacher Licensure Series. She remained chair of the School of Education until being named interim Academic Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs in August 2007. She accepted that role as a permanent position in January 2009.

These are just a few of the accomplishments that took place during her tenure:

- Extensive compliance requests from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accrediting agency
- Completion of a 360-degree review of all academic programs to discover which ones are viable and which ones need further evaluation and review
- Creation of the STARS (Success Tracks for Adults Returning to School) program for adults to return to complete or further their degrees or start fresh in higher education
- Launch of the first online degree completion programs, including social work, theology, and psychology
- Creation of the Master of Business Administration degree and placing the Master of Science in Management degree online
- Collaboration with the RiverPark Center and Kentucky Wesleyan College to offer a bachelor of arts in theater

“In May, the School of Education surprised Sr. Sharon with the announcement of the Sister Sharon Sullivan Endowed Scholarship, in honor of Sr. Sharon’s many years of service to the University and her impact locally, regionally and nationally.

Sr. Sharon said, “The Brescia experience and the Brescia difference are so integral to who I am, that I do not actually believe I will leave Brescia or – more accurately – that Brescia will leave me. I believe that all the factors that constitute the Brescia influence – faith, service, intellectual curiosity, celebration, nurturing – will continue to enrich my life and allow me – to share that influence with others.”

If you would like to contribute to the endowment, please contact Mary Alice Wethington at 270-686-4230 or mary.wethington@brescia.edu.

“Brescia has been for me a sort of lens through which my faith and philosophy of life has been focused; because of the people and events I have encountered here, I have been challenged and nurtured and have had opportunities to challenge and nurture others.”
Making a Difference
in the lives of our students ● our community ● our Church

“I am not here for these people. These people are here for me.”

James Robinson ’97

Social justice is a component of everyone’s education at Brescia, but for those involved in the Social Work Program, it’s even greater. For those who know James Robinson ’97, social work graduate, it was no surprise that he would undertake a large project that dealt with social justice and human rights issues.

Robinson’s story relating to human rights started after a 30-foot fall left him severely injured. He was faced with a decision: either go on disability or go back to school. He decided in 1994 to make a change in his life and enrolled in the social work program at Brescia University. Robinson was already married to his wife Sandy, and they had three children. Being a full-time dad, full-time student, and going through physical therapy did not slow Robinson down. He completed his bachelor and master’s degrees in social work within four and a half years.

He began his social work career as a case manager and worked for an organization called, Together We Care, which advocates for young adults. In his position with this organization, he received recognition for lowering substance abuse, teen pregnancies, and school dropouts in Ohio County.

After leaving Together We Care in 2005, he served a short stint as a principal in Providence, KY before taking the helm of the Bowling Green International Center. He was not informed prior to being hired that the Center was in a desperate state. It had been given three months to be made sustainable. Once Robinson was hired, he immediately began to work towards making the Center completely debt free and sustainable without relying solely on grant money. Since Robinson took over, the Center went from a half million dollar budget to more than 2 million dollars with zero debt.

At the Center, Robinson works hard to advocate for immigrants and refugees. He meets with foreign government representatives to advocate for refugees. He most recently returned from a trip to Thailand to meet with the government concerning Burmese refugees. The Thai government was keeping them imprisoned and taking their hard-earned money.

Robinson says that many refugees flee from their country out of fear, and they can never return, which is the major
difference between a refugee and immigrant.

Robinson’s work does not stop at simply advocating for the refugees. Once a person or family is lined up to come to the United States, the real process begins for Robinson. Each refugee is given $450 dollars, but it goes into an escrow account until they arrive. Robinson uses part of those funds to find them housing, stock their shelves with groceries to last two weeks, and supply them with basic toiletry items and clothing. Once they arrive at the airport in Nashville, Robinson meets and takes them to their new home. At that point he begins working with them to help them find employment. The laws that govern the refugees require that they become employed and self-sufficient within 90 days of arrival.

Each refugee who comes to the United States comes in debt because they must pay back their travel expenses within six months. Robinson said that 95% of the refugees that come through his center are employed and self-sufficient within the allotted time frame.

Robinson recently helped open an office in Owensboro to assist refugees. Additionally, he serves on the Brescia Social Work Advisory Board.

Robinson attributes his success in life to Brescia. He specifically mentioned how Belinda Thomson, Vicki Combs, and Nancy Keeton and had a profound impact on his life. They helped him hone the skills that he uses every day.

“My job is to make sure people are treated fairly and get a chance to be successful, however they deem success,” said Robinson.

The Bowling Green International Center resettles about 550 refugees a year. This year, they have helped resettle refugees from Bhutan, Burundi, Iraq, Jordan and Syria.

On April 10, 2010, Robinson was recognized as the recipient of the Fr. Charles Saffer Alumni Hall of Fame Award during Alumni Weekend.

“ My job is to make sure people are treated fairly and get a chance to be successful, however they deem success.”
It was one of the best experiences of my life,” is how junior Larry Farmer described his summer 2009 mission trip to Central America. “I had never been out of the country before. I had never been on a mission trip. I found it an interesting way to share my faith.”

Farmer, a Psychology and Spanish double major, member of the Brescia Psychology Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes co-captain, cross country and long distance track athlete, sports editor for The Broadcast, residence assistant, and orientation leader from Henry County, Kentucky, had a lot to say about his three-week experience that started in Xenia, Ohio.

Farmer discovered the opportunity to put his faith into action with Athletes in Action (AIA) – a component of Campus Crusade for Christ – by noticing a flyer his track coach had attached to a bulletin board. Curiosity piqued, Farmer checked out the website and filled out an application. He was chosen, along with other cross country and track students from colleges all across the United States.

The experience began with a week-long camp in Ohio. There he learned what his role would be once they left for Central America. The camp also gave him a chance to meet and mingle with the fellow participants who would embark on this journey.

Farmer said the last three days of camp were designed to make you completely exhausted, “The purpose was to make you depend solely on God.” At one point, Farmer was asked to carry a cross, symbolizing Jesus’ trek to Golgotha, down a huge hill and then run back up the hill with it.

The team of 17 left at two a.m. to head to Honduras. They spent a week there conducting track clinics, twice a day. It was an opportunity not only for Farmer to teach running skills to the children, but also to share his faith openly, “It provided me different ways to show my faith and be less afraid to show it.” Every participant in the mission experience had to lead a Bible study and share testimonies.

After a week in Honduras, the team traveled to Guatemala. Farmer said they were not able to conduct as many clinics there, since most of the schools in the country were completely shut down due to the H1N1 virus. So, the team took in some sightseeing including the Tecal ruins, which are the largest ruins in the world.

On July 3, Farmer flew back to the States, worn out and tired, but feeling very fulfilled. “The people I was with touched me the most,” Farmer said. “There were some really strong Christians and just great people to be around.”

Farmer said he would definitely enjoy an opportunity to travel with AIA again in the future.
Brescia University’s leadership of the institution – the Board of Trustees – is a governing body of individuals dedicated to Catholic higher education and the willingness to dream expansively. Below are the three newest members to the Board.

**Jamie Buskill** is a 1986 graduate of Brescia. He is the Senior Vice-President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Boardwalk Pipeline Partners. He has worked for Boardwalk or its predecessor for over 23 years. During his tenure, Jamie oversaw taking Boardwalk public on the NYSE and has acquired over $5 billion in the equity and debt markets over the past four years to complete expansion projects.

He currently serves on the Southern Gas Association Finance and Accounting Executive Committee.

He is married to Ann-Renee ’92 and they have three children, Sara, Zachary, and Andrew.

**Kathryn Raymer** is a 1993 graduate of Brescia through the weekend college program. She is the Executive Vice President of Risk Management for the Mortgage Division of US Bank. She has worked for US Bank and/or its predecessors for 28 years.

She is a board member of the Western Kentucky Botanical Garden, a member of IMPACT 100, and a past board member of PRIDE and Street Scape 2000.

She is married to Bill R. Raymer ’80 and they have two children, William Robert Raymer and Sabra Shanée Raymer Edelen and two grandchildren.

**Bishop William Francis Medley** was ordained the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro on February 10, 2010. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Psychology from Bellarmine University and and a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad School of Theology. Before his ordination into priesthood in 1982, Medley served as a social worker for the Kentucky Department of Human Resources.

Bishop Medley served in a variety of positions in the Louisville Archdiocese, including on the College of Consultors, the Priests’ Council, the Planning Commission of the Archdiocese, the Priests’ Health Panel, and Priests’ Personnel Board. He has served as president of the Bardstown/Nelson County Ministerial Association and on the Nelson County Human Rights Commission.
Family Endowed Scholarships
Assisting generations of students.

The Paul Martin Bresler Endowed Scholarship

A family-supported endowed scholarship was established to honor the memory of Paul Martin Bresler, an Owensboro farm implement dealer, who with his wife, Ann O'Bryan Bresler, had a passion for the values of Catholic education.

Martin and Ann Bresler were educated in Owensboro Catholic schools and attended Catholic colleges. At the time of Mr. Bresler's death in 1969 at the age of 44, all eight of Mr. and Mrs. Bresler's daughters were enrolled in the Catholic school system. Mrs. Bresler persevered and all eight children graduated from Owensboro Catholic High School. Four of them continued their studies at Brescia, where one graduated with a degree in Speech and Hearing. All eight daughters earned bachelors degrees and several did post-graduate work. And now, another generation of Mr. and Mrs. Bresler's family is being educated in Catholic schools.

To recognize Mr. Bresler's enthusiasm for Catholic education and to honor his dedication to the members of the agricultural community, the Bresler family (his widow Ann and all eight daughter’s and their spouses) established The Paul Martin Bresler Endowed Scholarship to assist a Catholic student whose heritage is of a rural background.
Endowed scholarships are one of Brescia University’s main funding priorities. Over 97% of Brescia students require some type of financial assistance. Endowed scholarships not only assist with removing financial barriers for students interested in completing their degree at Brescia, but provide this type of assistance to generations of students in perpetuity.

Two families with strong Brescia roots generously established an endowed scholarship in honor of their family’s generational connection to Brescia and out of a desire to assist others to benefit from The Brescia Difference.

The John and Maria Beyke Family Endowed Scholarship

John and Maria Beyke were of German, Catholic heritage with rural Daviess County roots. They were born, raised, educated, married and died in rural Daviess County, mostly living as farmers near Whitesville, Ky. It was common for young men from Daviess County, primarily from the Whitesville area, to work on the Beyke farm. Many of those young men also attended and graduated from Brescia University (then College) receiving encouragement from John and Maria in addition to the summer jobs that helped to pay their way.

John and Maria both graduated from St. Mary of the Woods High School (now Trinity High School), but neither had the opportunity to pursue higher education. They raised seven children on their farm and planted strong desires in those children to pursue higher education. Six of the seven children attended Brescia, with two graduating from Brescia and three completing the pre-engineering program. Several of the children’s spouses are also Brescia graduates and a number of grandchildren have attended or are attending Brescia, keeping the family legacy alive.

In Fall 2007, the Beyke’s surviving children lovingly established The John and Maria Beyke Family Endowed Scholarship to honor the deep-seated desire for higher education, which neither of their parents were able to pursue, hoping others from a similar background might have that opportunity.

Endowed scholarships may be established by individuals, families or companies and named according to the wishes of the donor. To inquire about opportunities for endowed scholarships, contact Todd Brock, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at 270-686-9551.
Commencement 2010

Commencement took place on Saturday, May 8 at the RiverPark Center. A total of 98 degrees were conferred, with newly installed Bishop William Francis Medley, as the special guest speaker. Bishop Medley was awarded an honorary degree.

Of the 98 students graduating, several were admitted to graduate school for fall 2010. These students include:

- **Dianne Lynn Albin** - Graduate School of Psychology, Saybrook University;
- **Martin Jara** - Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing, Samford University;
- **Chelsie McCaslin** - Doctor of Audiology Program, University of Cincinnati and University of Louisville School of Medicine, Doctorate of Audiology Program;
- **Benjamin Morris** - University of Kentucky Medical School;
- **Natalie Wilkerson** - University of Kentucky and University of Evansville Physical Therapy Program.

Summer Research

**Lauren Varble ’11**, chemistry major, was accepted to participate in the Kentucky Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (KBRIN) Summer 2010 undergraduate opportunity.

KBRIN is a network consisting of biomedical researchers. They only fund up to 18 undergraduate students to receive “gene-based research and/or informatics experience,” according to their website. The research will take place at either the University of Louisville or University of Kentucky.

Lauren will be mentored during this 10-week program by faculty who are active in biomedical research.

To Be or Not? A Divine Opportunity

**Joshua Overton ’10**, released his first book nationally in August 2009. *To be or Not? A Divine Opportunity*, is an inspirational book that delves into the topic of love as a choice. It also focuses on what you can take away after being heartbroken in a relationship.

Overton’s book is available at all major bookstores and online. This is just the first of many books he plans to write.

Student Writes for National Magazine

**Adria Nassim ’10**, from Bloomington, IN, took a break between her junior and senior year to intern in her home town with College Internship Program (CIP).

CIP’s website says they “provide individualized, post-secondary, academic, internship and independent living experiences for young adults with Asperger’s, High-Functioning Autism and learning differences.”

Nassim claims CIP was instrumental in her life. She said prior to the program, having Asperger’s meant she suffered severe anxiety, seizures, felt socially removed and isolated. After spending a year at CIP, her life changed dramatically. So dramatically that she wrote a speech for CIP’s summer orientation program. It was so well liked it was then forwarded on to *Spectrum Magazine. Spectrum* asked her to write an article concerning CIP for publication.

“I wanted to change the world ever since I was a little girl,” Nassim said. Through CIP, Nassim worked at a local YMCA with children with autism and developmental delays. Nassim would spend a couple hours bringing the children out of their shells however she was able. For one child, it was their common love of the Beatles music that helped them make a connection. “It was so much fun to help the children and give back to society.”
Brescia Receives National Recognition as one of the Best Colleges in the South

Brescia University was chosen by U.S. News & World Report for a top 30 ranking in its 2010 edition of “America’s Best Colleges” in the category “Baccalaureate Colleges in the South.” This is at least the fourth year in a row that Brescia has made it in this ranking.

Brescia a Best in the Southeast College

For the third year in a row, Brescia was named as one of the best colleges and universities in the Southeast according to The Princeton Review.

The Princeton Review selects colleges and universities based on institutional data, visits to the campuses, opinions of high school college advisors, and information received from a survey given to current Brescia students.

Brescia’s students said in these surveys that Brescia “respects all of its students” and “has an open-minded emphasis on Catholic faith.”

Brescia University Right to Life Student Group Formed

The Brescia University Right to Life group is an official student organization on campus. They work with the Owensboro Right to Life, Students for Life and National Right to Life as well as hosting many of their own events.

Soup Day Success

The sixth annual Soup Day fundraiser in November 2009 was another huge success. The Brescia Student Social Work Association and the Social Work Department served soup, bread, and desserts to raise money for Saint Paul’s Mission in New Mexico. Through the years, more than $9,000 has been raised for the Mission, which serves Navajo families and children. Brescia social work majors take a trip their senior year to the mission for their field practicum.

Hot Dogs for Haiti

Brescia University raised $1,095.32 through a lunch fundraiser in January for earthquake relief in Haiti. Becky Ivy and Judy Head from Global Outreach International spoke to the lunch crowd about conditions in Haiti and how the funds will be distributed. Heady and her husband became missionaries to Haiti in 1983. Canteen Food Services, CRS One Source, Pepsi, Sara Lee and Specialty Foods Group donated drinks, hot dogs, buns, chips, and desserts.

Check presentation by Sr. Pam Mueller, Campus Minister, to Becky Ivy.

New STARS Additions

Brescia is excited to announce beginning August 2010, an online degree completion program as either a Bachelor of Art or Science in Integrated Studies.

Brescia also offers its Master of Science in Management (MSM) completely online. This makes the third master’s program that students can earn at Brescia, in addition to the Master of Business Administration (MBA) and the Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction (MSCI).
National Education Speaker
Brescia University, Daviess County Public Schools, Owensboro Public Schools and Owensboro Catholic Schools collaborated to bring nationally known author and speaker, Rick Lavoie, to Owensboro. Lavoie is considered an icon in the field of special education.

Lavoie spoke to Brescia University School of Education students, faculty and staff first. He then met with the school systems prior to a keynote address to the public on April 13.

Lavoie has served as an administrator of residential programs for children with special needs since 1972. He holds three degrees in special education and has served as an adjunct professor or visiting lecturer at numerous universities. He has appeared on national television and given more than 2,500 keynote addresses and workshops to schools, institutions and agencies in North America, Australia, New Zealand, and Hong Kong.

Lavoie is probably best known for his videos How Difficult Can This Be?: The F.A.T. City Workshop, which Brescia University uses in teaching its special education program, and Last One Picked, First One Picked On: The Social Implications of Learning Disabilities.

Kentucky Poet Laureate
Gurney Norman, Kentucky poet laureate, spoke at campus on March 29.

Norman attended the University of Kentucky and majored in journalism and English. He studied writing at Stanford University as a Wallace Stegner Creative Writing Fellow and then had a two-year stint in the Army, after which he worked as a reporter for his hometown newspaper, the Hazard Herald. He is the author of several works including, Divine Right's Trip and Kinfolks. He is the director of the creative writing department at the University of Kentucky. He has written and narrated various documentaries about Kentucky, is a co-editor for a couple collections of essays, and his novella-length folk tale Ancient Creek will be released this year.

Contemporary Woman Program’s International Speaker
National and international speaker, Sister Ilia Delio, a Franciscan Sister of Washington, DC, came to campus on March 25 to present CHRIST in EVOLUTION. Sr. Ilia is the author of three well-known theology books: The Humility of God, Care for Creation and Christ in Evolution.

Practicum In Costa Rica
Brescia University Spanish majors spent part of their summer in San Carlos, Costa Rica to complete their Practicum requirements. During their stay, students were able to assist teachers at (Bosque Verde) “Green Forest Institute” a K-12 private institution in San Carlos. A main goal of the practicum is to immerse students in a Spanish speaking culture, enriching their classroom experience. The Practicum was organized and directed by Dr. Iris Moreno-Brown, Professor of Spanish and Coordinator of Modern Languages at Brescia.

Below (L to R): Dr. Iris Moreno-Brown, Belen Román, Belinda Thomson, Luis Aju, Tychena Sanders, Angel Abundez.
Far below: School where Brescia students worked while in Costa Rica.
Taking a Stand Against Child Abuse
In April, during National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Brescia University social work students joined countless others in Owensboro to raise awareness about child abuse as part of the “Stand Against Child Abuse” effort.

Girls Inc. dropped off a bus-load of girls to help form a human chain and hold posters in front of Brescia’s Campus Center to rally support.

Empty Bowls Fundraiser
More than $3,000 was raised this year during the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser at Settle Memorial on April 29. This fundraiser was an opportunity to inform others of the ongoing issue of hunger in our nation and community.
Local potters met at Brescia University’s clay studio and made more than 250 bowls to be used for the soup dinner. The price of dinner included soup, bread, drinks, and dessert. After the dinner, attendees were able to take their handmade soup bowl home. The $3,085 was split between two local churches funding soup kitchens: Woodlawn United Methodist Church and Third Baptist Church.

More Similar Than Different
The University was treated to home cooked Indian cuisine from Lakshmi O’Bryan, curriculum resource director from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Lakshmi says she and her husband wanted to show their appreciation to Brescia. “Brescia saved us from a lot of misfortunes. I am so grateful to God that my first job is at Brescia University.” Lakshmi said she doesn’t want people to be afraid of her or think she is weird. “The world is becoming so polarized, I just want us to look at our similarities [rather] than our differences.”

Below: Students and faculty joined girls from Girls, Inc. to raise awareness about child abuse.
Golf
It was an exciting season for men’s golf as they won the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIAC) championship in late April. Freshman Blake Shelton was the KIAC Player of the Year. Matt Galloway, Stephen Kraft, Blake Shelton, and Garrett Veal were named to the All-Conference Team.

Tennis
The men’s tennis team defeated Indiana University Southeast for the KIAC title this spring and advanced to the NAIA Division II regional tournament. Freshman Julien Chenneberg was the KIAC Player of the Year, and Head Coach Jack Etchison was named the Coach of the Year. Jacob Blevins, Alex Bumm, Julien Chenneberg, Jan Dombroski, Thiago Mastroianni, and Barrett Smith were named to the All-Conference Team.

Freshman Mona Blauen was named the conference Player of the Year for the women’s tennis team. Mona and Kelsey Hurrrigan, and Candance Skaggs were named to the All-Conference Team. Women’s tennis finished the season 14-4, 11 more wins than last season, and second place in the KIAC tournament.

Basketball
Men’s and women’s basketball teams both made it to the conference tournament. The men’s team lost to number one seed Indiana Southeast in the title game. This was the first appearance for the men’s team in the conference tournament. They finished out their season with a 22-9 record, having five seniors and six freshmen. Andrew Howard and Anthony Ingram were named to the All-Conference Team.

The women’s basketball team completed the season with a 18-14 record with just one senior on the team and seven freshmen. Brittany Bird and Clarissa Houston were on the All-Conference Team. Brittany was named a two time All-American in the NAIA Division 2 Women’s Basketball National Tournament. She finished the season as a junior surpassing the 1,000 point mark. She also finished the year with the most points in a season, most assists in a single season, second most steals in a year, second in career steals, fourth most field goals made in a season and sixth on the career assist leader board. She accomplished all this while maintaining a 3.75 GPA.

Cross Country
Men’s cross country placed second in the KIAC championship, with women’s finishing fourth. Sophomore Matt Lowe was the conference Runner of the Year and on the All-Conference Team. Sophomore Ashley Miller was named the women’s conference Runner of the Year. She and Julie Reynolds were named to the All-Conference Team.

Soccer
Women’s soccer made it to the KIAC semi-finals, but lost to Asbury, ending their season 6-9-1. Senior Valerie Kamuf was recognized as an NAIA Honorable Mention All-American, the first in the team’s history. She was also the KIAC Defensive Player of the Year. Senior Katie Overton was named to the NAIA Academic All American team for maintaining a 3.5 GPA through her senior year. Katie scored 17 goals in her career, ranking her fifth for the University. Lea Anderson and Valerie Kamuf were named to the KIAC All-Conference Team.

Men’s soccer saw three players on the KIAC All-Conference team - Angel Abendez, who also was the conference Defensive Player of the Year, Andrew Livingston, and Muriyd Ross. After a year hiatus, the soccer team finished the season 3-15.

Volleyball
Volleyball ended the season 3-21 and made it to the first round of the KIAC Tournament before being shut out by Indiana University Southeast.
Sandra B. Conners, D.B.A., assistant professor of marketing and management, has been granted $5,000 in research funds by the Academic Advisory Board of the Von Allmen Center for Green Marketing in the Gatton College of Business and Economics at the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Conners will study consumers’ cognitive processing of “green” print advertisements using eye tracking equipment. She would like to find out whether consumers even notice eco-labels in ads, what types of people notice them, and do variables such as product type matter.

Dr. Conners will collect data at the Center, analyze the results, and present her preliminary findings at a December colloquium in Lexington, Kentucky.

This was a competitive grant and Dr. Conners will be the lead investigator.

Waheed Khan, assistant professor of political science, will have his master’s project published this year entitled Distinctive Features of the North American Regionalism: Why NAFTA is Least Likely to Follow the Path of the EU?

Dr. James F. Naas, associate professor of speech pathology and audiology, team-taught in February at an invited course entitled “Addressing the Needs of Patients with Dementia: Comprehensive Assessment and Treatment Planning for Communication, Cognition and Swallowing” at the Palomar Medical Center, Escondido, CA. His teaching focused on pharmacological issues, formalized patient assessment, and treatment.

Dr. Iris Moreno-Brown ’80, professor of Spanish, attended the National Advanced Placement Exam Reading in Cincinnati, Ohio, sponsored by the National College Board. Professor Moreno-Brown, with other faculty members from around the country, were invited to judge student performance for one week using this highly recognized testing tool.

Belinda Collings Thomson ’72, associate professor of speech and drama, spent most of her past summer out of the country. She first traveled with Dr. Iris Moreno-Brown and the Spanish practicum students to Costa Rica for ten days in May.

Then in July, she traveled to Ireland for the 25th Anniversary Conference of the World Communication Association. The conference was held on the Irish National University Campus at Maynooth. It lasted five days and hosted faculty from 13 countries and 12 U.S. States. At the conference, Ms. Thomson judged oral presentations in three categories: Best Conference Oral Presentation, Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation, and Best Oral Presentation in English as a Second Language. The conference was followed by a four-day tour of the western coast of Ireland. The trip ended with five days in Dublin and included work at Trinity College, the Irish National Library, five Irish national museums, and attendance at five theatre productions. While in Ireland she had the pleasure of attending a U2 concert.

Ms. Thomson returned to Owensboro just in time to begin work on the 3rd Annual Murder Mystery Festival at the RiverPark Center in August 2009.

Nancy Keeton ’72, Ph.D., professor of social work, was awarded the second annual President’s Award for Teaching Innovation May 2009 by her peers and Brescia University President, Fr. Larry Hostetter.

Dr. Keeton was chosen for her outstanding innovative teaching practices which are centered on online learning. Dr. Keeton has proven through her teaching methods that she understands the challenges of educating online social work students.

The President’s Innovative Teaching Award was established in 2008 by Fr. Larry to recognize the outstanding teachers at Brescia who support the core of the University’s mission, which is teaching and learning. This award also offers a development opportunity for the recipients. Brescia’s faculty had the option of nominating someone or themselves for the award.

Left: Belinda Thomson and Iris Moreno-Brown in Costa Rica.
New Director of Annual Giving
Amy French, Director of Annual Giving, has a passion for justice. This passion fits nicely with Brescia’s Ursuline tradition of social justice and meeting people where they are.

Amy has a firm belief that everyone should act on their beliefs, and is given a rare opportunity to invite people to live their faith in a new way in her role at Brescia University.

“Education is transformative in today’s society,” said French, “My position allows Brescia alumni and friends the opportunity to invest in a place they believe in.”

Amy recently graduated from Loyola University Chicago where she obtained a Master’s in Social Justice. However, she is no stranger to western Kentucky. Amy grew up in Morganfield and lived in Owensboro prior to moving to Chicago. She has attended a mission trip with Brescia students and experienced the Brescia Difference through Campus Ministry events.

If there is one thing to be said of Amy, it is that she has the gift of gab. “I love talking! I love to share stories. I look forward to meeting alumni and friends, hearing your stories and sharing the story of Brescia today,” said French.

To contact Amy French, you can call (270) 686-6417 or amy.french@brescia.edu. You can count on hearing from Amy in the coming months as she strives to reach this year’s annual fund goal.

The Brescia Annual Fund
The 2009-2010 Brescia Annual Fund soared to new heights this past year. Alumni and friends of Brescia University joined together to raise more unrestricted funds than ever before. This is the fourth consecutive year the Brescia Annual Fund has increased. We would like to thank all those trustees, alumni, friends, parents, faculty, and staff that helped make this growth possible.

Please look for the fall edition of Brescia NOW! for the full 2009-2010 President’s Annual Report.

The 2008-2009 President’s Annual Report is available online at www.brescia.edu.
Friday After 5 Sponsorship
Brescia University will kick off Labor Day weekend as the finale sponsor of Owensboro’s Friday After 5 sponsor on September 3, 2010. The Jimmy Church Band will be performing at 6:30 pm. Wear your Brescia blue and join us downtown for live music, cool drinks, and great conversation at Friday After 5.

Fall Break Getaway to New Orleans
Join Fr. Larry Hostetter and other fellow alumni for a fall getaway to New Orleans, October 21-25, 2010.

The journey begins with a train ride from Carbondale, IL to New Orleans, LA. Your visit will include tours of the city, plantations, a swamp, and more. Enjoy Jazz Mass as St. Augustine Church.

The time to register is now! Contact Faith in Travel at 270-389-1002 or email info@faithintravel.com. You can also contact Josh Clary, Alumni Relations Director, at 270-686-2111 or josh.clary@brescia.edu.

Blessing of the Pets
Mark your calendars for the annual Pet Blessing - October 4, 2010. Last year pets took over Brescia’s Quad in a celebration of St. Francis of Assisi’s Feast Day. Dogs of all sizes, cats, frogs, and a snake were all blessed by Fr. Larry Hostetter, who read the words of Saint Francis, “those who will exclude any of God’s creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity will deal likewise with human kind.”

The Catholic tradition respects animals as God’s creatures, worthy of our care. The crowd was also treated to a reading describing how St. Francis came to be the patron saint of animals.

The event, begun by Fr. Larry and Sr. Pam Mueller, Director of Campus Ministry, four years ago, has grown every year. Last year there were 76 humans in attendance and over 40 pets. Awards were given out for Biggest Pet, Smallest Pet, Oddest Pet, and Pet Look a Like.

We hope you and your pet can join us for the celebration this fall.

Staying Connected
Are you receiving the monthly email newsletter from Brescia? If not, you need to sign up for Brescia Beat by visiting our website www.brescia.edu. Keep connected to what is happening at your alma mater, alumni events, and exciting news quick.

You can also become a fan of the Brescia University Alumni Association Facebook page. It’s current Brescia information right at your fingertips.

Lily Martin, winner of the Pet Look-a-Like contest in 2009, holding dog, Rosie. Lily is the granddaughter of Garry Pierce ’68.
Lark ’69 and Sharon ’70 Buckman spent part of June 2009 in Maui, Hawai‘i, where their daughter, Andrea, is a Restoration Specialist and Grants writer for the Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership. This picture was taken on a day Andrea coordinated the planting of more than 1,200 trees.

Martha Thomas ’69 Hardman and husband Michael Hardman ’71 announce that they have both retired from their jobs. Michael retired from the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government as an internal auditor. Martha retired from Fayette County Schools as an elementary teacher. Their son Michael just moved back to Lexington after living four years in England. Their son Steven lives in Lexington with his wife and two children, and their daughter Ann is in the U.S. Diplomatic Corps and is currently serving in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Christopher ’97 and Julie Howard ’97 Ford announce the birth of a son, Elijah, on Aug. 12, 2009.

Chris ’02 and Amanda Noble ’04 Graff announce the birth of a son, Tristan Parker, on April 6, 2009.

Kari Edwards ’04 and John Riddle ’05 were married on Aug. 29, 2009 in Sebree, KY.

Kevin Fritz ’07 and Laura Rhodes ’08 were married on Aug. 1, 2009 at Brescia University’s Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel.

Greg ’70 and Patty Schibler ’70 Alvey would like to announce the birth of their grandson, Thatcher Hayes Hagen. Thatcher was born in Lexington, KY on May 1, 2009. His parents are Greg and Patty’s daughter Laura and her husband John Hagen of Paris, KY. Thatcher also has a sister Kayanna, 11 years old.

Larry Abitz ’96 was hired by Wisconsin Congressman Steve Kagen’s office in March 2009. Abitz has nearly a decade of experience as a journalist at the Antigo Daily Journal in Wisconsin. He has been designated as the congressman’s operations manager and district press secretary.

Rachel Ramsey ’03 and her husband Matt announce the birth of a daughter, Zoey Ginger, on Aug. 18, 2009. She was welcomed into the world by her big brother Jake.
Alex Mattingly ’02 and Beth Osborne ’05 were married at Sts. Joseph & Paul Catholic Church in Owensboro, KY, on July 25, 2009. The wedding Mass was celebrated and officiated by Father Larry Hostetter. Mattingly is son of Fred and Mary Pat (Howard) Mattingly ’75. Members of the wedding party included: Sabrina Grant ’05, Jeremy Bertke ’99, Chris Graff ’02, Nathan Held ’03, Nathan Bales ’04 and Jim Mattingly ’08.

Graeme Abel ’04 was named an assistant women’s soccer coach at the University of Oklahoma in 2008. Prior to that, he coached at the University of Nevada for three years. In 2009, Abel coached with the U.S. Under 20 Women’s National Team and the Region III Olympic Development Program.

Brooke Daffron ’07 Hutchison was honored in April 2009 as the Social Worker of the Year from Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for children of the Ohio Valley. The nominees were gathered from about 30 CASA volunteers, attorneys, and families.

Left to right: Donna Wilson, Brooke Hutchison and Mary Pendleton.

Numerous Brescia alumni attended Alex Mattingly and Beth Osborne’s wedding, that we simply do have have enough space to name them all!
Kim Riney ’93, would like to announce that her daughter, Abbie, a new Brescia student, recently earned a National Merit Scholarship.

Dr. Winnie Cohron ’74, received the Outstanding Dissertation Award by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. This award was due to Cohron’s doctoral dissertation research and its contribution to teaching and learning. Cohron is a secondary instructional supervisor for Warren County Public Schools in Kentucky.

Melanie Hays ’07, was honored in April 2010 as the Social Worker of the Year from Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for children of the Ohio Valley.

Rachel Pate Whitford ’06, was honored on April 27 with the Brescia University “Outstanding Field Practicum Supervisor" award. She is a social worker with the Daviess County Department of Public Advocacy. She is pictured with her two Brescia social work students she supervised this year.  

Left to right: Janith Totten, Rachel Pate Whitford and Alyson Stallings.

Miranda Lee ’08, graduated from the Pratt Institute in New York with a Master of Science Degree in Communications Design. Eva Atkinson’79 and her two daughters, Anna and Michelle, traveled to NYC to celebrate with Miranda in May.

Miranda, Eva, Anna and Michelle celebrating Miranda’s graduation from Pratt Institute.

Christopher Graff ’02, was promoted to manager on June 1, 2010 at BKD, LLP in Louisville, Ky. Chris has more than eight years of public accounting experience in both audit and tax engagements.

He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Kentucky Society of Certified Public Accountants and Healthcare Financial Management Association.
The Brescia University community joins in prayerful remembrance of those who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

From April 1, 2009 - May 8, 2010

In Memoriam:

Sarah Atkins ’73, who passed away on June 24, 2009. Survivors include her daughter, Sally Atkins ’66 Medley, and son-in-law, George Medley ’69.

Sr. Anita Flaugher, OSU ’79, who passed away on Feb. 5, 2010, in her 80th year of religious life.

Mary Christine Edge Mulligan ’54 & ’95, who passed away on May 8, 2010. She was the mother of Dr. John Mulligan ’81 and Yvonne Marie Hileman ’83 and the mother-in-law to Cindy Beemer Mulligan ’81.

A 1995 graduate of Brescia College, she received her two-year degree as a member of the first graduating class of the newly established Brescia College in 1954. She married in 1956 and spent the next four decades as the mother of seven children and devoted wife of a western Daviess County tobacco farmer. She returned to Brescia to complete her four-year degree in 1993, and received a standing ovation as she crossed the stage at the age of 65 in 1995.


Theodore “Ted” Dechman, III, ’82, who passed away on April 25, 2010. He was a retired Vietnam vet, earning many military honors.

Charles A. Peters ’58, who passed away on March 27, 2010. Charles was a former Brescia faculty member, having taught business courses in the 1960s.

William A. “Bill” Gilles ’67, who passed away on March 10, 2010. Bill was the brother of Robert “Bob” J. Gilles ’57.

We extend our deepest Sympathy:

Fr. Tony Shonis ’76, whose father, Anthony J. Shonis, Sr., passed away on July 2, 2009.


Jerry ’72 Biscopink, Alice Cecil ’72 Biscopink, Ronald ’74 Biscopink, Patricia Biscopink ’73 Merimee, and Gregory Merimee ’72, whose father and father-in-law passed away on January 1, 2010.


Walter “Gerry” Horn ’98, whose mother, Mary H. Knecht, passed away on Jan. 21, 2010.

Steven Waninger ’92, whose brother, Gregory Waninger, passed away on Jan. 30, 2010.


Greg McCarty ’76 and Cynthia Murphy ’78 McCarty, whose father and father-in-law, Paul Ignatius McCarty, passed away on February 22, 2010.

Mary Swift Gray ’78, whose mother, Charlene Swift, passed away on May 8, 2010.

Sister Mary deChantal Whelan, 94, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Sept. 3 at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 75th year of religious life.

An educator for over 61 years, she was professor of English at Brescia College for 39 years (1958-97). “Sister DC” was known for inspiring her students with her love of books, music, and learning, and she began many programs at the college, including the Grants Office, Office of Student Support Services, and Weekend College. She blended her gift of hospitality with a fiery sense of justice, and always radiated joy in her vocation.

Survivors include a brother, James Louis Whelan of Newburgh, Ind., nieces and nephews, and the members of her religious community.

Gifts in memory of Sister Mary deChantal Whelan may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.
2010 Distinguished Alumni

In April, Brescia University bestowed the highest honor on this year’s Distinguished Alumni during Alumni Weekend. Visit the Alumni page on www.brescia.edu for their profile and to read their speeches from that evening.

Wesley Acton ’60
Lisa Payne Jones ’93
Charles Kamuf ’62