Bonagany street festival to highlight Family Weekend

By Katie Fish

St. Bonaventure’s Family Weekend will be highlighted by the first-ever “Bonagany” street festival, a family festival complete with music, food and entertainment, celebrating the friendship between SBU and the village of Allegany.

The fall fair will be held from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, on Main Street in Allegany. Features include a student club and organizational fair and free music by Hotel California, an Eagles tribute band. Allegany restaurants will be showcasing their favorite dishes along the sidewalk and inflatables, including a giant slide and rock-climbing wall, will be available to all ages in the parking lot of First Tier Bank. The rain site will be the covered complex at the Allegany Fireman’s Park off North First Street.

“Our goal with this festival is to further seeing...
Cusato, O.F.M., director of The Franciscan Institute and dean of the School of Franciscan Studies.

They received the 17th and 18th Franciscan Institute Medals, awarded to honor scholars who have made outstanding contributions to Franciscan studies in the areas of philosophy, theology, history or spirituality. Both honorees are known for their scholarly work on Peter John Olivi, a Provencal friar of the late 13th century whose critical work on Peter John Olivi, a Provencal theology, history or spirituality. Both outstanding contributions to Franciscan studies in the areas of philosophy, theology, history or spirituality. Both honorees are known for their scholarly work on Peter John Olivi, a Provencal friar of the late 13th century whose critical importance for Franciscan history has become known largely through their efforts.

This year’s recipients were the first to receive the newly redesigned medal, featuring the image of St. Francis of Assisi flanked with those of St. Clare and St. Bonaventure, which was presented by Fr. Michael Cusato on behalf of the faculty of the Franciscan Institute.

After the awarding of the medals, Burr delivered the academic address, titled “Why We Do History.” “The primary duty of a historian is to try as hard as he or she can to get it right,” Burr said, pointing out that incomplete information and our own biases shape our interpretation of the past.

He discussed two common beliefs, the first being that society leaves the evaluation of current events “to the judgment of the historians.” Historians are not moral arbiters, Burr said. “Moral judgments do not arise simply from a study of the facts; we impose our moral judgments on history,” often based on shared societal attitudes.

He noticed a pronounced change after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the shift in students’ attitudes toward the Inquisition and torture, which usually drew revulsion but became more acceptable, simply a part of war. To illustrate his point, he drew on a contemporary parallel, noting that practices usually associated with the Inquisition and previously considered “un-American,” have gained, due to these events, more sympathy with a traumatized public.

Another oft-repeated saying is “Those who fail to study history are doomed to repeat it,” which Burr said he finds a bit too glib. “OK – What if the biggest lesson we learn is that we are doomed to repeat it?” he asked, provoking chuckles.

He noted that Jared Diamond’s book, “Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed,” traces several civilizations and their fall, as well as a few who read the signs and avoided it.

However, Burr believes that the present is much more helpful in explaining the past than the past in explaining the present. He compared the Beguines, members of a 13th-century religious movement who assisted the Spiritual Franciscans on the run with those men and women in Italy during World War II who gave shelter to soldiers from both armies who were in need of shelter and food — the reaction of human beings like ourselves moved at the plight of other people in need.

Historians, therefore, carefully observe the immediate environment, then look at one historical situation to evaluate it, he said. “History done in this way is at best a messy business,” Burr acknowledged, because “our reading of the present influences the questions we ask about the past.”

But historians keep on, because that’s what they do. “Besides,” he said, “it’s fun!”

University president Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., S.T.D., offered remarks following the address, pointing out not only the scholarly wealth Burr has produced, but also the “profound personal commitment” to Franciscan values that underlies his work.

She also praised Fr. David for a decade of collaboration — both personal and professional — with two longtime Franciscan Institute scholars, Fr. Gedeon Gal, O.F.M., who passed away in 1998, and Fr. Allan Wolter, O.F.M., who has retired, thanking him for “giving Gedeon and Allan productivity and peace in their last years” with the Institute.

Sr. Margaret presented a pair of books to the Institute, including a gift from Don Aldo Brunacci, a new limited edition of Codex 338, a facsimile edition of the earliest version of the Franciscan sources.

Fr. David, who is currently at work on Olivi’s Commentary on the Book of Genesis, presented his paper, “So What Is a Franciscan? Constituting the Franciscan Subject” on July 19 in the University Chapel.

Fr. David focused on what appears to be a surprisingly harsh quote from Chapter 22 of the Early Rule of the friars that advises the brotherhood of friars “let us hate our bodies with their vices and sins,” because they would separate us from Christ and cast everyone into hell.

Despite the fact that the strong language makes many uneasy, its purpose was to help in defining a distinct way of life for the fledgling community, he said.

“We are examining an instruction central to Franciscan life,” and studying it helps us to understand its context and why it was important, Fr. David said. The early brothers were social beings, but in going out in the world, they had to constantly be on guard against slipping back into the social conventions of Assisi that had been rejected by the friars.

“They were agents of the Spirit, subverting the world to a new way of life,” he said. “Francis and his brothers broke society’s hold over them, developed their own language, and had the power to mark clearly the border between society and the Spirit’s domain.”

The Eucharistic Liturgy for the Feast of St. Bonaventure was celebrated July 15 in the University Chapel, Doyle Hall, with Fr. John F. O’Connor, O.F.M., the new Provincial Minister of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, as celebrant and Fr. Wayne Hellman, O.F.M., Conv., dean of the Graduate School of Theology at St. Louis University and a member of the summer faculty for the School of Franciscan Studies, as homilist.

Please note!

The Higher Education Opportunity Program’s 20th anniversary celebration, originally announced for Sept. 10, has been delayed. Details will be announced at a later date.
Imaging Journals brighten the Quick through October

By Katie Fish

Twenty-three intensely colorful and uniquely designed journal books full of original imagery, creatively enhanced historical photographs, excerpts from poetry and rich pages of watercolor and collage are now on view in the Branch Family Gallery of The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts.

Although the Branch Family Gallery is under the auspices of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, these vivid “Imaging Journals” were surprisingly produced by 23 SBU undergraduates, most of whom are pursuing future careers in biology, finance, journalism, sociology, education, psychology, history and computer science.

The unusual genesis of this display emerges out of the University’s award-winning and innovative program for humanities and sciences in the school’s Clare College core curriculum. In this particular Clare College class, the Imaging Journals are created as part of an aesthetic exploration into the profound links between visual art, theater, music and literature.

“The visual journal experience was unlike any other art experience I have had in a Clare class,” said Alicia Schichtel, a senior physical education major from West Springfield, who teaches drawing and painting in the Friedsam Memorial Library.

“The students first embark on traditionally written research projects involving selected painters, poets, composers and authors. Then they are encouraged to imagine expanding this research to embrace visual expressions in watercolor, monotype and collage. The results are richly creative Imaging Journals that become valued artifacts of the course.”

The journals also include written commentary on play production rehearsals, dance performances, classical and jazz concerts, films and art exhibitions that the St. Bonaventure students experience on campus along with their more traditional studies in literature. Many of these colorful journal pages are open and displayed in the current exhibition.

“I feel that throughout my educational journey I have never been given the opportunity to create something that really represents my own personal character,” said Kerry O’Malley, a junior physical education major from West Springfield, Mass. “While orchestrating the Imaging Journal this semester, it was an eye-opening experience where I was able to express myself creatively through both art and words.”

Artist and faculty member Constance Pierce, who teaches drawing and painting in the visual and performing arts at St. Bonaventure, originated the concept for Imaging Journals that she currently adapts for this particular class. “I am hoping that by engaging my students in the contemplative discipline of journal work to illuminate more fully the important connections between diverse art forms and also to nurture a connection to the interior life and to what it is like to be a fully creative human being,” Pierce said.

The journal pages by her students in this exhibition are designed and enhanced in inventive ways, including the use of watercolor pencils, iridescent acrylic paints, ink wash and pastel “resist” techniques, gesture sketching and explorations in harvesting recognizable compositions out of abstract monotype prints. Even the students’ more traditional research papers are reprinted on selected colors and creatively cut, designed and recycled onto the pages.

The exhibition was made possible by a James Martine Endowment Grant from Clare College. The exhibition will run now through October in the Branch Family Gallery with an overflow display of students’ journals in the Friedsam Memorial Library.”

“DeLaRoche” continued...
Three of seven candidates who have entered the program of initial formation with Holy Name Province are St. Bonaventure graduates. Stephen DeWitt, a 2004 graduate, and Daniel Horan and Andrew Kneller of the Class of 2005 are among the current class of seven candidates. Affiliation is a one- or two-year period during which a man lives with a friar community and engages in various aspects of its life and work. During this time, the candidate is presented with resources to help him develop the psychological and emotional qualities necessary for religious life and ministry.

Megan Manjerovic, a sophomore from Pittsburgh with a dual major in political science and French, was recently featured in the newsletter of the Thomas Merton Center in Pittsburgh, where she is working on the Labor and Community Solidarity Campaign. Her current project is the Pledge of Support for Working Families, which calls for employers to provide their workers with a living wage and opposes the use of public funds for anti-union activities that cause the loss of employee jobs and benefits.

Steve Mest, ’91, associate athletics director for communication, was one of three featured speakers at a panel discussion titled “Handling Sensitive Situations” on July 6 in Philadelphia during the annual convention of the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Elaine Nessle, a rising senior and a participant in the Francis E. Kelley Oxford Program, was interviewed by the Elmira Star-Gazette, where she had interned last summer, after the terrorist attacks on the London subway and bus system. In an article published July 8, Nessle said that members of the group had spent July 6 in London, touring and celebrating the city’s successful bid for the Olympics. They left early Thursday and within hours received news of the bombings. All Oxford Program participants were unharmed, coordinator Br. Basil Valente, O.F.M., assured parents and members of the University community.

Constance Pierce, assistant professor in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, was invited for the third summer to offer her course in the Art Therapy Counseling Program, School of Graduate Studies, of Ursuline College in Ohio in her specialty titled “Imaging Journal: Creative Renewal and the Inward Journey” during May. In addition, she offered a public lecture on this topic at Ursuline College on May 24. While in Cleveland, Pierce also served as juror for the exhibition “The Healing Imagination” at The Wasmser Gallery that ran through June. She recently co-authored a panel proposal on the role of the practicing artist in art therapy education that was accepted for the upcoming American Art Therapy Association National Conference in Atlanta in November, collaborating with Gail Rule-Hoffman, department head of the Art Therapy in Counseling Graduate Program of Ursuline College.

Samuel R. Smith, associate professor of journalism and mass communication, had a column, “Reporter Malpractice, Texas Hold ‘Em and the Plame Game,” published in the July 18 edition of Editor & Publisher. Smith analyzed the Judith Miller/Valerie Plame confidentiality case under three tenets of confidentiality, concluding that Miller should have disclosed her source, who acted in bad faith. “Reporters are obligated to the truth, and allowing themselves to be pimped by those who would use them as tools against the truth is a crime against the profession and the society it serves. Protecting that which you are bound to expose is malpractice,” he wrote.

Dr. Robin Valeri, associate professor of psychology, and Dr. Kevin Borgeson, assistant professor of sociology, published “Identifying the Face of Hate” in the spring 2005 edition of the Journal of Applied Sociology. The study, a follow-up to “Faces of Hate,” which was published in fall 2004, examined the impact of content warning notices on an individual’s ability to recognize the intolerance of a hate Web site.

“Bonagany” continued ...

enhance the neighborly relationships between residents, the business community, local government and the University,” said Steve Plesac, director of student activities. “We want to continue to build bridges that connect our families, churches, the school and the community.”

Family Weekend events begin at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 23, with the opening of the exhibitions season at The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts. Six exceptional new exhibitions, with the season highlight “Stitches in Time: The Bayeux Tapestry, a Monument of Medieval Narrative Recreated” will be opening. At 7:30 p.m. Friday participants will have the chance to catch the center’s season performance opening of “Simple Gifts,” three women playing 12 instruments in a variety of ethnic folk styles.

Also Friday, from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. in the Reilly Center Arena, Les Sabina’s Academy of Jazz and Cool will perform. Leslie M. Sabina, Ph.D., is professor of music at SBU and has played saxophone with artists from the Temptations and the Drifters to Dizzy Gillespie and Della Reese.

At 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, Bjorn Again will perform in the Reilly Center Arena. The “ABBA-solutely fabulous” Bjorn Again perform all the greatest ABBA hits as they are meant to be seen and heard — in all their fantastic ‘70s glitz, complete with the costumes, dance moves and Swedish banter known and loved by ABBA fans everywhere.

Weekend festivities will come to a close at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 25, with a Sunday Eucharist in Reilly Center Arena. To stay up-to-date on all Family Weekend events or for ticket information, visit www.sbu.edu and click on “Student Activities” under “Campus.”