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Nancy Hynes Institute for Women's Leadership [and its namesake]: A Brief History

Peggy L. Roske
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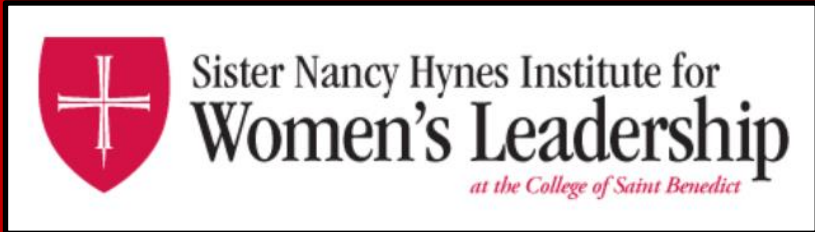
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Roske, Peggy L., "Nancy Hynes Institute for Women's Leadership [and its namesake]: A Brief History" (2021). *Archives History Lessons*. 107.

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A Brief History of the



– *and its namesake*

COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict

COVID-19 Resources and Information

Institute for Women's Leadership | IWL

Home / Sister Nancy Hynes Institute for Women's Leadership / History

History

During the Spring of 2003, CSB students Beth Heinzen and Sarah Summers met with Vice President of Student Development Ms. Geller to discuss the project of beginning a Women's Center. After meetings with the Board of Trustees in **November 2003**, the Women's Center gains support to move forward and construction of the CSB Women's Center begins in **February 2004**. The Women's Center officially opened on **March 29, 2004** and held its first program, a discussion about feminism titled "The F' Word."

The Women's Center was dedicated to Dr. Sister Nancy Hynes on **September 16, 2007**, because of her dedication to the women's movement and her activism concerning women's issues. The center became the Sister Nancy Hynes Center for Women, and is committed to honoring her work and continuing her legacy.

In the **Fall of 2009**, the Sister Nancy Hynes Center for Women became the Sister Nancy Hynes Institute for Women's Leadership. The change in the name indicates the change in the Institute's focus; We now focus primarily on Gender Issues and Women's Leadership.

The Institute for Women's Leadership is unique in that it is a student-lead program under Student Development. The program is led by a student intern working twenty hours per week. She serves as the program director and is in charge of hiring, training, managing and supervising a staff of seven to nine fellow students. In addition the Student Director works closely with a faculty advisor to achieve learning goals via intensive study on gender and leadership. Guided by a dynamic advisory board made up of faculty and administrative staff, students are ultimately in charge of the direction that the Institute takes throughout the year - what programs are put on, what themes programs center on, and how to further advance the Institute and its role on campus. By doing this, students are able to gain hands-on leadership experience, find their leadership style, and understand first-hand how gender

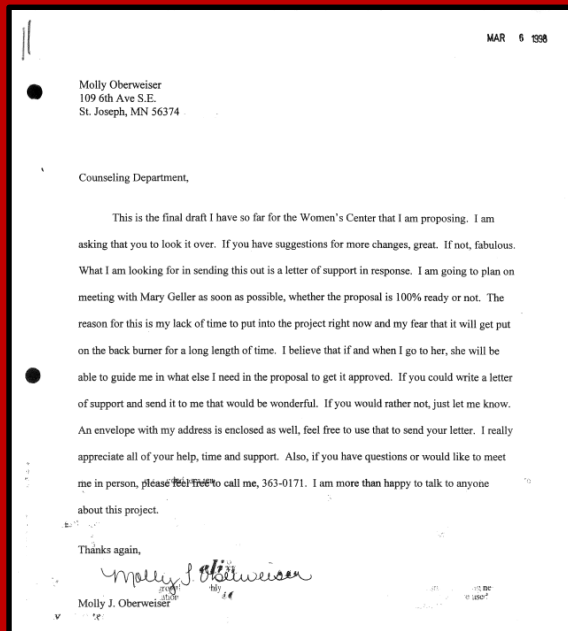
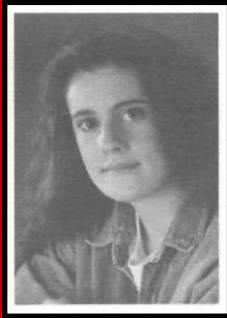
Contact Us

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College of Saint Benedict
Murray Hall 151
320-363-5881
iwl@csbsju.edu

f t

The Institute for Women's Leadership conveniently has a page on its website relating its history, beginning in 2003. However, a document in the CSB Archives shows that there was a concerted effort to establish a women's center five years earlier, in 1998.

<https://www.csbsju.edu/iwl/history>



In March of 1998, Molly Oberweiser, then a junior, drafted a proposal for a women's center at St. Ben's and sought the support of the Counseling Department before presenting the proposal to Mary Geller, CSB's Vice President of Student Development.

1998 Oberweiser Womens Center proposal.pdf

Photo from 1995-1996 CSB/SJU Student Directory

stigma (the thought that something must be "wrong with them"). In these cases, these students could be reached by programs offered by the Women's Center and envision a welcoming environment that offers space for discussion, study, and programs. The resources at the Center may reflect some already available on campus. "Although such literature is generally available in the campus library, the fact that it is visible on the more accessible bookshelves in the Center encourages students to consider such topics in their own research and term papers more readily than might otherwise be the case" (Initiatives, Vol. 51). It is important that resources that are not already available on campus are made available in the Center as well. The main idea for this is to make connections with services that are available in St. Joseph and St. Cloud. Links would be made with the Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center, St. Cloud State University's Women Center, women physicians in the area, Birthline, etc.

The Women's Center proposes a three year demonstration project in an effort to develop and implement high quality programs and services focused on the diverse needs of women.

First Year: Enhance programming and education on rape and sexual assault prevention.

- a. Set up permanent self-defense classes available fall and spring semester every year.
- b. Work with Student Advocates Against Sexual Violence to improve the "Sex is the Dark" program, interest in speaker Katie Koestner, reception to Project Clothesline etc.
- c. Form a support group or connect with one already established in St. Cloud (Ex. Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center).

Second Year: Respond to the problem of alcohol abuse on the CSB campus.

- a. Develop a program for those whose behavior has been documented two or more times for incidents with alcohol.
- b. Set up AA or Women and Sobriety program on campus or connect with one in St. Cloud (Ex. AA-ALANON Assistance Line #252-4121, Central MN Mental Health Center #252-5010, Charter Behavioral Health Systems #252-3295).

Third Year: Strengthen education and programming on eating disorders.

- a. Meet with Health Education, Lifestyle Fitness professors and Counseling to form steady, reliable programming each week or once a month on body image, eating disorders, and surrounding issues (Ex. SCSU's Women Center's "Women on Wednesday" see Appendix A).
- b. Form a support group or connect with one already established (Ex. Eating Disorders Support Group #259-2564).
- c. Implement strong education programs in residence halls and apartments to publicize eating disorder warning signs targeting friends, RA's etc..

Third Year: Help establish a safe environment for gays, lesbians, and transsexuals on campus.

- a. Work with the Les-Bi-Gay club to determine needs, help enhance programming, etc.
- b. Help connect with Community Organizations (Ex. Central MN Lesbian Center #259-4303, P-FLAG #252-5189, SCSU LGBT Resource Center #654-5166 or #252-4958).

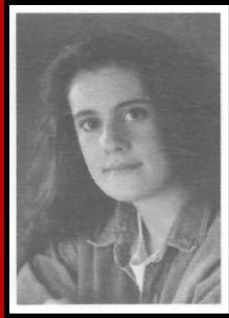
Estimated Budget

The above programs and services will be staffed primarily by students and volunteers at no direct cost. The College of Saint Benedict will provide director salary space, furniture and office supplies. The salary of a three-fourths time Director to develop and manage programs and to supervise students is estimated at \$27,000 the first year and \$29, 000 the second year.

Programs	\$5000	
Space (provided by CSB)		In Kind
Equipment (Desks, chairs, file cabinets, computers, printer, provided by CSB)	\$5,000	
Paper and Desk Top Supplies (provided by CSB)	\$1,000	
Printing	\$2,000	
Postage	\$500	
Telephone	\$1,000	
	Total	\$30,500

Molly outlined a three-year development project, with an estimated budget that included a salaried Director. It would provide educational efforts and programming concerning sexual assault, alcohol abuse, eating disorders, and a safe environment for LGBT students.

1998 Oberweiser Womens Center proposal.pdf



MAR 6 1998

Molly Oberweiser
109 6th Ave S.E.
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Counseling Department,

This is the final draft I have so far for the Women's Center that I am proposing. I am asking that you look it over. If you have suggestions for more changes, great. If not, fabulous. What I am looking for in sending this out is a letter of support in response. I am going to plan on meeting with Mary Geller as soon as possible, whether the proposal is 100% ready or not. The reason for this is my lack of time to put into the project right now and my fear that it will get put on the back burner for a long length of time. I believe that if and when I go to her, she will be able to guide me in what else I need in the proposal to get it approved. If you could write a letter of support and send it to me that would be wonderful. If you would rather not, just let me know. An envelope with my address is enclosed as well, feel free to use that to send your letter. I really appreciate all of your help, time and support. Also, if you have questions or would like to meet me in person, please feel free to call me, 363-0171. I am more than happy to talk to anyone about this project.

Thanks again,

Molly J. Oberweiser

Molly J. Oberweiser

But Molly's proposal is by itself in the Archives; no documentation – so far – tells us what happened to her proposal.

1998 Oberweiser Womens Center proposal.pdf

Photo from 1995-1996 *CSB/SJU Student Directory*

The screenshot shows the website for the Institute for Women's Leadership (IWL) at the College of Saint Benedict. The page is titled "History" and features a navigation menu on the left with items such as "Sister Nancy Hynes Institute for Women's Leadership", "Newsletters", "History", "Former Student Directors", "Philosophy", "Get Involved!", "Hynes Scholars", "Programs", "Staff Members", "IWL Throughout the Years", "CSB Student Development", and "Bennie Career Closet". The main content area includes a breadcrumb trail "Home / Sister Nancy Hynes Institute for Women's Leadership / History", the IWL logo (a red shield with a white cross), and the text "Sister Nancy Hynes Institute for Women's Leadership at the College of Saint Benedict". A highlighted text box contains the following information: "During the **Spring of 2003**, CSB students Beth Heinzen and Sarah Summers met with Vice President of Student Development Mary Geller to discuss the project of beginning a Women's Center. After meetings with the Board of Trustees in **November 2003**, the Women's Center gains support to move forward and construction of the CSB Women's Center begins in **February 2004**. The Women's Center officially opened on **March 29, 2004** and held its first program, a discussion about feminism titled "The 'F' Word."

But things changed by 2003, when students Beth Heinzen, in the class of 2005, and Sarah Summers, '04, met with Mary Geller. They got the CSB Trustees "on board" about the Women's Center, and construction work began on a space in the Haehn Campus Center.

<https://www.csbsju.edu/iwl/history>

A Center for Women Informational Meeting

December 8, 2003

1. Introductions
2. Current vision for the Center
 - o Process of envisioning Center
 - o Student-led initiative
 - o Inclusive of all women
 - o Benedictine values
3. Logo and slogan
4. What topics would you like to see the Center to address?
5. Are there any programs that you would like to see from the Center?
6. Structure of Center for next semester
7. What is your interest level? Are you interested in a leadership position?
8. Next meeting

This agenda for an informational meeting held in December 2003 indicates what was being done to get things going.

2003 12 08 Center for Women meeting.pdf

St. Ben's creates center for women

Center will introduce new programming on campus, focus to include leadership

By Kristen Nowak
Editorial staff

Part of the focus for the center is leadership for all women.

CSB will now have what other women's and many co-ed colleges have had for years.

While CSB has always made gender issues a priority, they will now take on a more visible form in the college's new center for women.

"It was something I always heard women on our campus talking about as a need," said Beth Heinzen, CSB junior.

Heinzen is one of several students working on the project with adviser Mary Geller, CSB vice president of student development.

The center, located in the old game room in the HCC, will have its grand opening during Women's Week at the end of March.

However, the physical space, which includes a conference table and a couple computers, could be open as soon as the beginning of February.

Plans for the center include programming geared toward all types of women.

"It's giving women the ability to examine who they are in society today."

"I think we focus on a lot of socio-emotional development and I think it really is just personal growth in leadership," Heinzen said.

The programming, most of which will begin next fall, will include lunchtime lectures, in which professors and other speakers will come in and speak about a topic, followed by a discussion.

"It'll just be a quick way for women to kind of stop out of their day and do some personal growth," Heinzen said.

Another program CSB senior Sarah Summers, who began working on the project during her internship with Geller last semester, hopes to see as part of the center is a mentoring program in which upperclassmen volunteer and mentor first-year students.

Eventually, the center will have a director and 2-5 work study positions.

Geller said the center is a completely student-led initiative.

"This is truly owned by the students," Geller said. "It will be defined by what

"It's giving women the ability to examine who they are in society today," Geller said.

"This is truly owned by the students," Geller said. "It will be defined by what they claim it to be."



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The Record published an article about the Center in January 2004, which quotes Mary Geller: The Women's Center "is giving women the ability to examine who they are in society today...It is truly owned by the students" and will be defined by them. The space designated for it was the game room in the Haehn Campus Center. 2004 Jan. 22 *The Record* p. 1

<https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/32175/rec/14>

Geller photo from

<https://web.archive.org/web/20041010065536/http://www.csbsju.edu/csbstuddev/>

Last summer, after attending the Leadership Institute, CSB junior Bethany Heinzen had a plan. She wanted to create a center for women at Saint Benedict's. "I had heard from so many students that this was something they wanted, and I figured I could try to start one."



A Center for Women Opens On-Campus

By Emily Steenberg '06

After working hard for seven months, nine CSB Center for Women workers and volunteers were ready to celebrate, and on Monday, March 29, they got their chance. The grand opening of the Center for Women was held over the lunch hour, and CSB President Carol Guardo was on hand to cut the ribbon and officially open the Center, which is located between the information desk and Alumnae Hall in the Haehn Campus Center.

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"When I came to CSB, I was surprised that there wasn't a women's center, and in the back of my mind, I was always thinking about creating one," explains Mary Geller, vice president of student development. Luckily, Heinzen took the initiative, and she has "been the energy behind the entire project," says Geller. Heinzen, along with a group of eight Bennies, worked tirelessly throughout fall semester 2003 and the first half of spring semester 2004 to find funding, a room for the Center and begin planning programming.

"The Center will be a place where Bennies can "just be Bennies," according to student coordinator Lisa Baker, '04. "It's a place where we can focus on ourselves first, as women." Programs that enable students to connect with each

other, with faculty and staff and with the monastery have already started, and there are hopes to expand the programming as the Center continues to grow.

Next academic year, there are plans for a mentor project, a generational dinner and a women's conference, as well as continuing the lunchtime lectures and

been really surprised and pleased by the interest," said Baker. "So many faculty and staff members have dropped by, just to offer their support, and more and more students are realizing what we're about and what we have to offer."

The Center has regular hours, but students, as well as staff, faculty,



Emily Kahr '06, Lisa Baker '04 and Lisa Gilbert '06 prepare to raise a toast to the new CSB Women's Center and all who made it possible.

conversation series that started this spring. There is also a resource library located in the Center. The collection of magazines, books and other writings about gender and women's issues can aid in writing papers or completing research projects, as well as simply serving as a place to find out what's going on around the world in women's lives. "So far, we've

monastics and alumnae are encouraged to stop by any time.

"It's a comfortable place to explore what it means to be a woman," adds Emily Kahr, CSB sophomore and Women's Center employee, "and a place to support each other through that exploration."

An article about the opening of the Women's Center was published in the Summer 2004 *Saint Benedict's* magazine. Although she's not pictured with it, the article does credit class of 2005 Bennie Beth Heinzen as a driving force behind getting the Women's Center established. Beth was the Student Senate president that year, and she "worked tirelessly" to find funding and a room, and began planning programming for the Center. She went on to be its Director the next year.

2004 Summer Saint Benedict's Magazine p. 16

<https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/1241/rec/1>

Heinzen (black & white) photo from *The Record* Nov. 4, 2004, p. 2

<https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/32198/rec/10>

Heinzen (color) photo from *The Record* April 21, 2005, p. 1

<https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/32411/rec/3>



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“When I came to CSB, I was surprised that there wasn't a women's center, and in the back of my mind, I was always thinking about creating one,” explains Mary Geller, vice president of student development. Luckily, Heitzen took the initiative, and she has “been the energy behind the entire project,” says Geller. Heitzen, along with a group of eight Bennies, worked tirelessly throughout fall semester 2003 and the first half of spring semester 2004 to find funding, a room for the Center and begin planning programming.

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But the first director (although her title was “coordinator”) was Lisa Baker, CSB class of 2004. She anticipated the Center being a place where Bennies “can focus on themselves, as women.” (Lisa went on to run her own business, Avon’s Baker’s Acres, hence the photo with the green peppers in the background!)

2004 Summer Saint Benedict's Magazine p. 16

<https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/1241/rec/1>

Baker photo from Baker’s Acres Facebook page,

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Bakers15Acres/photos/?ref=page_internal

Baker photo (with peppers) from March 3, 2017 *Record* p.1

<https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/43305/rec/3>



CSB Center for Women: Grand Opening during Women's Week
By Lisa Baker

The new CSB Center for Women will open its doors to the CSB/SJU community during its Grand Opening celebration during Women's Week, Mar. 29-Apr. 2. The celebration begins with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 12:35 p.m. on Mon. afternoon, March 29, with an inaugural speech from CSB President Carol Guardo. Everyone is welcome to drop in between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. during Women's Week. The new establishment will be a new beginning for this college for women and will work to exalt the experiences and relationships of its students.

The Center's mission is to empower women to engage in inclusive dialogue, reflective thinking, and ethical action that celebrates and recognizes women as shapers of our world. It is the hope of the founding students that the work of the Center will help CSB students not only in their own personal discovery of themselves, but also with a stronger identity as a CSB woman.

Located in the former recreation room of the HCC, adjacent to the Info Desk, the Center will maintain a visible, accessible, and supportive environment to cultivate conversations and activities. Guests of all nationalities, races, and genders are welcome to use the Center and its services and are encouraged to spend

Located in the former recreation room of the HCC, adjacent to the Info Desk, the Center will maintain a visible, accessible, and supportive environment to cultivate conversations and activities. Guests of all nationalities, races, and genders are welcome to use the Center and its services and are encouraged to spend time with the staff, volunteers, and other guests.

Development at CSB, serves as the director of the Center. Later is CSB senior Lisa Baker, and junior Andrea Dowd the student workers. The Center hopes to employ a full-time-study positions. Eventually, internships and service Women for GWST minors and other applicable majors.

chairs and tables, a growing library, a magazine collection, a recreation room, computers, and more.

The Center for Women will offer programming to explore issues confronting women within and beyond the college, and it will develop activities to facilitate interaction among students, faculty, staff, and the monastery. Controversial Conversations, a weekly informal speech and chat will begin Monday of Women's Week at 4:15-5:00 p.m. in the Center with a chat about "The F Word." Join in on the conversations and debate to help raise awareness, enjoy a snack, and ask the questions that provoke dialogue.

Future potential plans for the Center include a mentor project for connecting incoming students with upper-class women, a generational dinner with CSB students and alumni, an expansion of the Bennie Day celebration, reviving The Pageant, hosting a women's conference, initiating a health center on the CSB campus, and facilitating an exchange program with a college that is known for its prominent women alumnae.

One of the main objectives of the CSB Center for Women is to ignite and foster communication about women's and gender issues. A public folder is available to the CSB/SJU community for anyone to post, reply to, and view messages relevant to the Center for Women. The Center can be reached via email at womenctr@csbsju.edu.



Lisa's press release about the Center's Grand Opening survives in the Archives. In it she notes the Center "will maintain a visible, accessible, and supportive environment" for "guests of all nationalities, races and genders..."

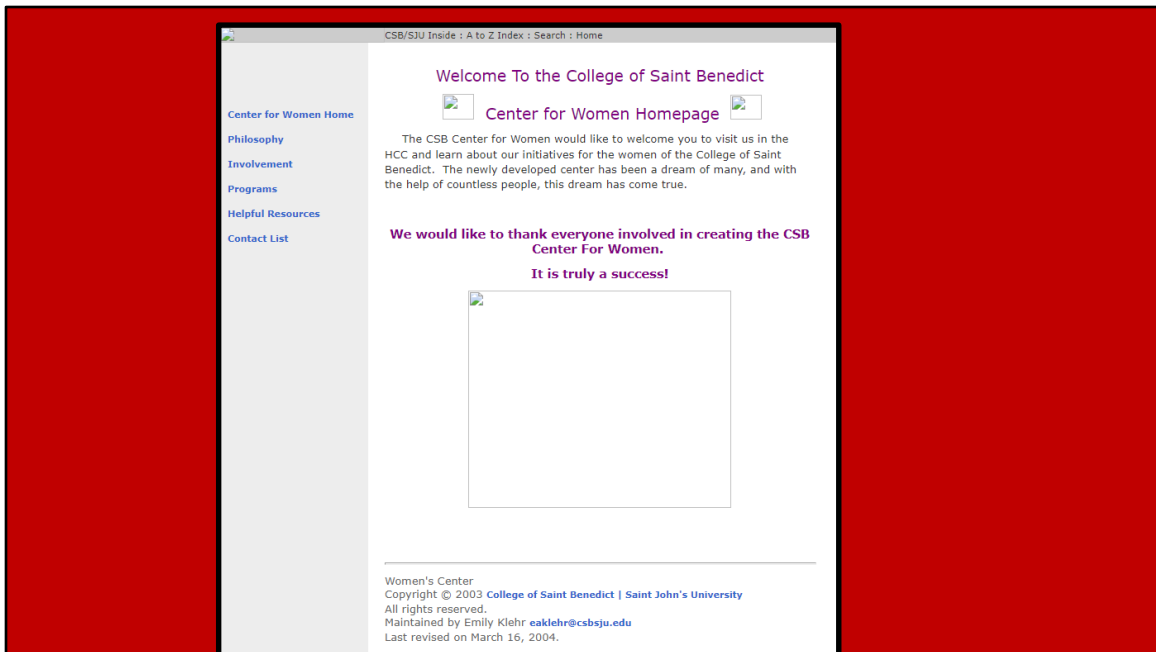
O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Digital Archives\Committees\Admin Assembly Presentations\CSB Admin Assembly\2021\IWL Nancy Hynes\Images for Hynes IWL\2004 03 29 Center for Women Grand Opening Lisa Baker.pdf from AC 08.12 Box 1

Baker photo from Baker's Acres Facebook page,

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Bakers15Acres/photos/?ref=page_internal

Baker photo (with peppers) from March 3, 2017 *Record* p.1

<https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/43305/rec/3>





I fished this out of the Internet Archive, aka the “Wayback Machine”: the Women’s Center’s first home page. Unfortunately, the graphics didn’t survive.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20040704180743/http://www.csbsju.edu:80/womenscenter/>

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Center for Women Home

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- [Contact List](#)

Center for Women

Welcome!


The CSB Center for Women would like to welcome you to visit us and learn about our initiatives for the women of the College of Saint Benedict.

Location:

- College of St. Benedict
- Hahen Campus Center (HCC)
- Next to the Information Desk

Office Hours:

Weekdays from 10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.



Upcoming Events:

- Hot Chocolate Hot Topics**
- Woman of the Week

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 E-mail the CSB/SJU Web Coordinator.

This one, from two years later, is a better representation – both of the Women’s Center and, more precisely, the advances in CSBSJU website design. The Center’s upcoming events include “Hot Chocolate Hot Topics”...

<https://web.archive.org/web/20060415123038/http://www.csbsju.edu/womenscenter/>

Hot Chocolate Hot Topics 2004-2005



Nov 17 - Food: Friend or Foe
by Jenny Miller, Jayne Byrne, and Sigrid Hedman-Dennis

Dec 8 - Smarty Skirts
by Annette Atkins, Elisabeth Wengler, and Christina Tourino

Feb 3 - Healthy Hearts
by Kathy Ohman

Mar 2 - Slim Hopes
by Jenny Miller

Mar 9 - Ordinary Women Doing Extraordinary Things
by Companions on a Journey

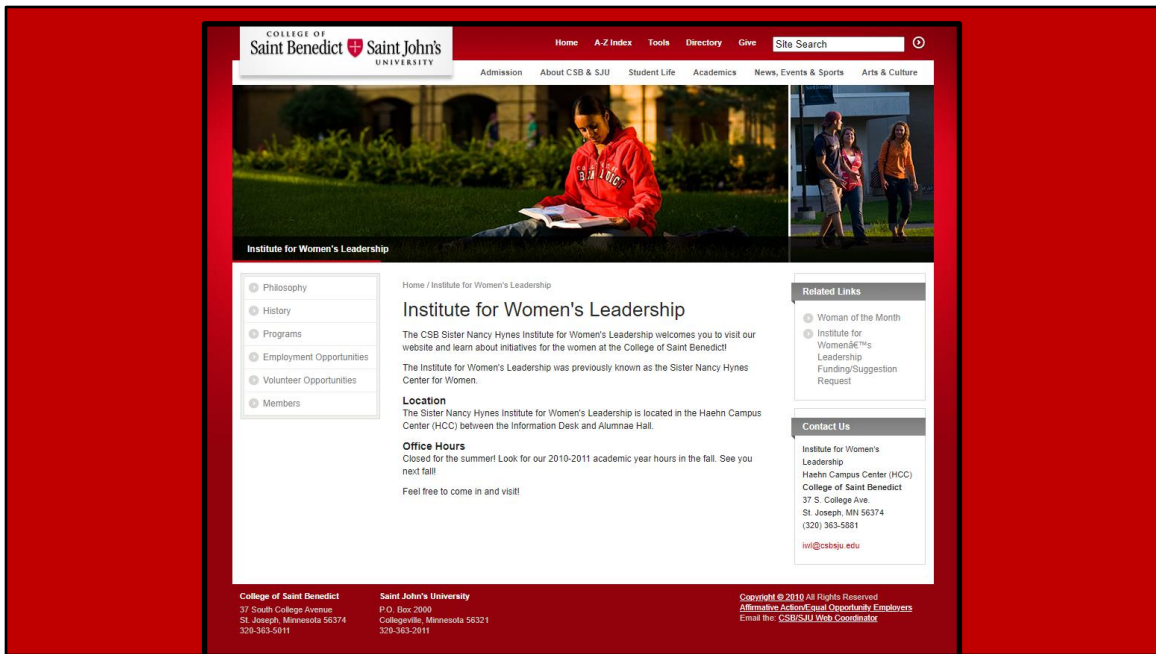
Mar 16 - Beauty and the Feminist
by Camilla Krone

Mar 30 - Chilly Climates
by Lisa Ohm

April 7 - The Mom Shift
by Cindy Malone, Pam Bacon, Margrette Newhouse

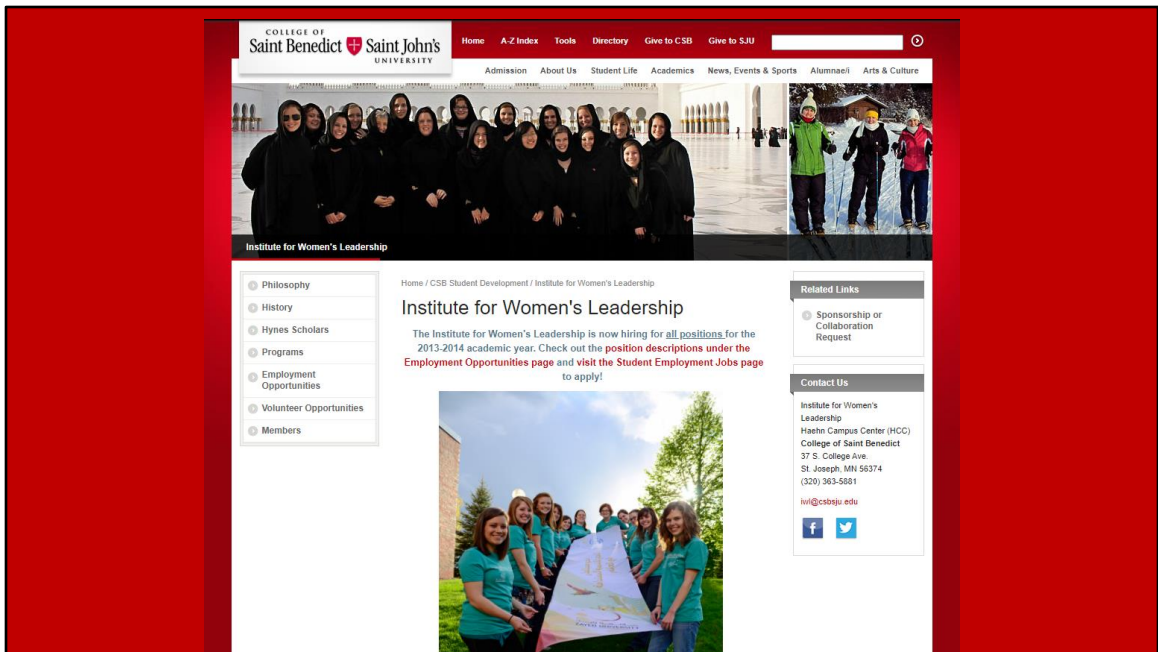
...a list of which, from 2004-2005, can also be found in the Archives. As you can see, faculty were often tapped for presentations and conversation.

2004-2005 Hot Cho Hot Topics.pdf



This is the IWL's 2010 website...

<https://web.archive.org/web/20100528015602/http://www.csbsju.edu/CSB-Student-Development/Institute-for-Womens-Leadership.htm>



...and here's its 2012-13 website. Facebook and Twitter have become contact options.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20130201231254/http://csbsju.edu/CSB-Student-Development/Institute-for-Womens-Leadership.htm>


The Center for Women

Hot Chocolate Hot Topics

THE GLASS CEILING: Equality in the Work Place


Join us for a presentation
by Professor Wendy
Klepetar

Thurs., Dec. 1, 4:00 pm
Center for Women (HCC)



Hot Chocolate Hot Topics is geared towards addressing important topics from a woman's point of view. The purpose is to raise questions that will keep women thinking, and discussing around campus.

Hot Chocolate and cookies will be provided




Contact The Center for Women
Womenctr@csbsju.edu

The Gender Box

Mon. March 20th
5:00pm
CSB Center for Women


*To illustrate how society constructs gender roles for women and men, which may have a negative impact on their behavior and development.



Brought to you by the CSB Center for Women, CSB/SJU Student Gender Group, and members of your campus community.

www's info:
<http://www.csbsju.edu/studentgendergroup/genderbox.html>

Theresa Matton
Student Director
Women's Center
College of Saint Benedict
37 S. College Ave.
St. Joseph, MN 56374
Phone: 320-363-3881
E-Mail:
womenctr@csbsju.edu



The promotional materials got more sophisticated, graphically, over time...These examples are from 2005 & 2006.

Purple = 2005, Barbie = 2006

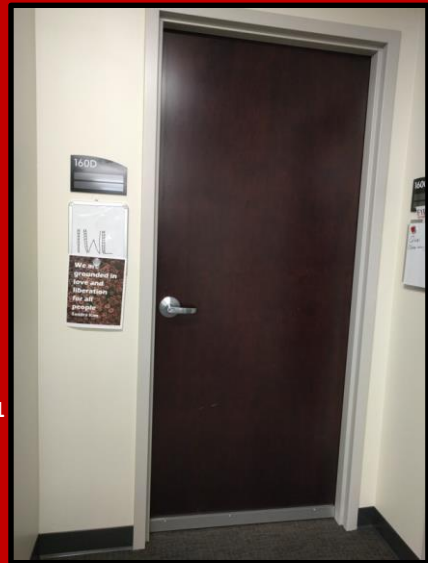


...as did their newsletters, though the numbering system – or lack thereof – is enough to drive an archivist crazy.

IWL newsletters: Pink = 2004 v. 1 #3, Carliene/orange = 2019 v.1 #1, purple = 2020 v. 1 #1 (I think)



HCC, 2010



Murray Hall, 2021

Julia Geller, our main speaker (and current director of the IWL) will be talking about the activities of the Center, so let me just mention some historical tidbits. For one, its location: initially located in the Haehn Campus Center, it moved to Mary Commons in 2012, and in 2013 it relocated to Murray Hall, which is where it is today, within the newly remodeled Multicultural Student Services Center.

O:\Archives\csbarchives\Photos\Buildings Photos\Haehn Campus Center\Women's Center\Women's Center 2010 0527 02.jpg

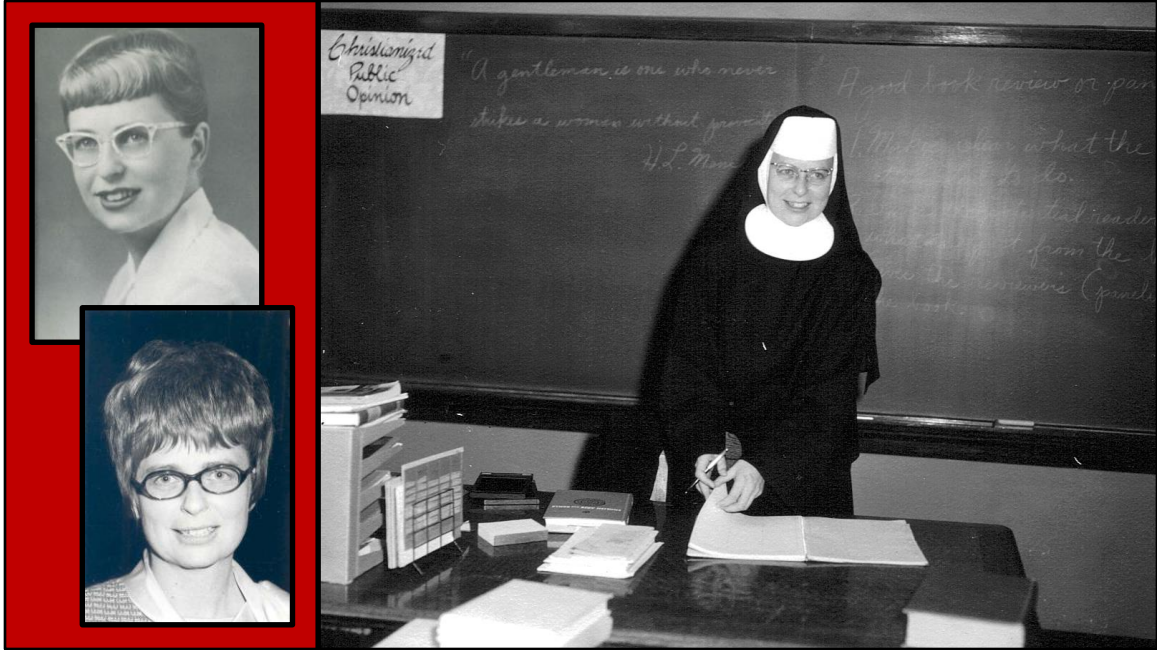
2004: Center for Women
2007: Sister Nancy Hynes Center for Women
2009: Sister Nancy Hynes Institute for Women's Leadership



(aka the "IWL")

And for another, its names and its namesake. Originally called the Center for Women, it was renamed the Sister Nancy Hynes Center for Women in 2007. In 2009 it became the Sister Nancy Hynes Institute for Women's Leadership. The new name indicated a change to focus primarily on Women's Leadership.

O:\Archives\csbarchives\Photos\Buildings Photos\Haehn Campus Center\Women's Center\Women's Center 2010 0527 02.jpg



And as for its namesake, Nancy Hynes was born graduated from St. Ben's in 1955, joined the Monastery in 1956, and taught English in several area high schools, as well as one in South Dakota. She was initially professed with the name "Sister Linus."

Photos from the CSB and St. Ben's Monastery Archives
1950s-1980s



- Director of Public Information
- Director of Alumnae and Parent Relations
- Professor of English
- Director of the FYS Program
- Advisor for *Studio One*



She got her Master's from Marquette in Milwaukee and her PhD from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She was CSB's Director of Public Information from 1970-1974, then spent a year as the Director of Alumnae and Parent Relations. Then she was a professor of English at St. Ben's & St. John's for 32 years. She was the first director of the Common Curriculum's First Year Symposium program (1984-1989), was the advisor for *Studio One*, and served on many committees and task forces, especially in the effort to establish the Women's Studies/Gender Studies programs for CSB/SJU.

Photos from the CSB and St. Ben's Monastery Archives, 1950s-1980s

Right photo: O:\Archives\csbarchives\Displays\CSB Centennial\Final Photos for Sisters Event\Photos for Sisters Event\By Category\Academic\Nancy Hynes lecturing.jpg



But she was also a serious scholar, editing a book of work by Mariella Gable and authoring a biography of writer J. F. Powers.

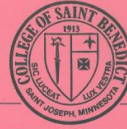
Photos from the CSB and St. Ben's Monastery Archives, 1950s-1980s

Right photo: O:\Archives\csbarchives\Displays\CSB Centennial\Final Photos for Sisters Event\Photos for Sisters Event\By Category\Academic\Nancy Hynes lecturing.jpg

Nancy's 1991 convocation address,
"With Eyes to See"

Today I want to focus on three ways of seeing. First is the way of the liberal arts: knowledge for its own sake, delight in learning, taking courses you like, seeing the connections between history and science, math and music, literature and art. The second is the way of what Chicago University president Hanna Gray calls, your own "ethical core," the development of intellectual integrity and a balanced, not biased, use of evidence (Kidder 20). As you develop your values, you will ask yourself basic questions: Who am I? How did I get here? Where am I going? Third, there is the Benedictine way: a life of prayer and work, hospitality toward guests, reverence for things and other people.

p.2



1991-92
All-college Convocation

College of Saint Benedict
September 4, 1991
10:30 a.m.
BAC Auditorium

Program

Processional	Dr. Dale White, trumpet; Dr. Ed Turley, piano "Overture" — <i>Suite in D major</i> by G.F. Handel
Invocation	Mary Margaret Yeager, OSF <i>Director of Campus Ministry</i>
Welcome	Colman O'Connell, OSB <i>President, College of Saint Benedict</i>
	Meg Winter <i>President, Student Administrative Board</i>
Faculty presentation	"With Eyes to See" Nancy Hynes, OSB <i>Associate Professor of English</i>
School song	"Saint Benedict's Ever" Led by Dr. Carolyn Finley <i>Assistant Professor of Music</i>
Recessional	Dr. Dale White, trumpet; Dr. Ed Turley, piano "Heroic March" by G.F. Telemann

Nancy gave the convocation address at St. Ben's in 1991, "With Eyes to See," in which she stressed the benefits of a liberal arts education.

O:\Archives\csbarchives\Digital Archives\People\Hynes, Nancy\Sent to Brenda 2016 03 14\ also has Nancy's 1991 convocation address, "With Eyes to See" and the convocation program.

Dateline: CSB/SJU

Each issue *The Saints* has invited a member of the monastic community at CSB/SJU to share with us a story or experience they can remember from their time here. If you are a member of the monastic community and would like to take part in this section, please call us at the Saints at extension -5041.

This Week:

Nancy Hynes, OSB
Professor of English



That was Then

What were St. John's and St. Ben's like in the fifties? Two colleges, side by side, with separate curriculum, separate administration, separate students. Jon Hassler was a shy student at SJU -- thirty years away from his admirable writing career... J.F. Powers was in Ireland writing *Morte Durban* which would win the National Book award in the early sixties.

program: many students have their own cars; both schools have grown immensely with St. Ben's having around 200 more students than St. John's. The pranks still go on. My own steadfast and reliable student worker left me a note in 1987: 'Sorry I'm not at work; I've gone to the Twins' celebration in Minneapolis.' I couldn't blame her.

Maybe the most outrageous trick was when the rugby team

would win the National Book award in the early sixties.

St. John's was bigger -- all those Korean vets -- and St. Ben's was tiny -- about 200 students. No cars were allowed on campus; strict rules governed our lives (fresh had to be on campus every night by 7:30 p.m. for first semester--ostensibly to foster their study habits!). Harsh penalties existed for breaking those rules. For example, my own sister set a record for the longest "campus" (eight weeks of being grounded) for forging a letter inviting her to a friend's house for the weekend. (In reality, she went to a cabin party in Richmond.) She was almost expelled from school, but one look into my father's blues eyes filled with tears and dean Sister Margretta relented (God bless her!)

The pranks did not abate, however. One of the wildest was Johnnies' leading a pregnant cow to third floor Mary. Her hooves sounded like high heels on the hallway floor, scaring into their rooms the naked Johnnies headed for the shower. (The cow lost her calf after the trauma of being pushed down the stairs. The animal rights people were not the only ones upset about that.) My Uncle Cleve (SJU '38) tells of the staged gun battle on Minnesota Street just in front of Sal's (the Pantry then) complete with catsup for blood.

There were "streakers," panty raids, and sit-ins in the president's office in the sixties and seventies.

Maybe the most outrageous trick was when the rugby team "kidnapped" a star student in my American novels class for a weekend in New Orleans. A rugged rugby player came to my office to try to get my "cooperation" in this event. He said, "He's the captain, but he won't go with us because he doesn't want to hurt his GPA. Don't penalize him for this." I protested that it was his choice not to go, but they "kidnapped" him anyway. (Oh yeah, he dropped the class!)

This is Now.
The two schools are one academic

Maybe the most outrageous trick was when the rugby team

"kidnapped" a star student in my American novels class for a weekend in New Orleans. A rugged rugby player came to my office to try to get my "cooperation" in

There were "streakers," panty raids, and sit-ins in the president's office in the sixties and seventies.

I also recall when two St. Ben's students asked me to assist them in writing a persuasive letter to their president Sister Colman: "Dear Sister Colman: half the crew members are Benites; therefore, St. Ben's should contribute money to the club." They got the money.

Finally, both J.F. Powers and Jon Hassler, writers-in-residence emeriti, will read from their works on Oct. 25, 8 p.m.. Don't forget to reserve your tickets. (Send a note to Charles Thornbury, SJU English.)

P.S. to all writing students. I am aware that not all these details fit my assignment -- memories of SJU/CSB -- but Powers and Hassler are an integral part of our combined history. Besides, I can't resist a plug for our Creativity Conference -- Oct. 23-25. Don't miss it.

to speak

ival story

ber issue of *Ladies Home* She has appeared on NBC's "Today" show, and PBS's "20/20," and a condensed version recent book, *Forgiving the* *Walking*, will be published *er's Digest* in January.

is will address the CSB/SJU **ty on Tuesday, October 20** p.m. in **Alumnus Hall, Campus Center.** The **trilled *Capital Punishment: ary in Real Life* is sponsored** joint Events Council, the Campus Center, CSB Ministry, and College ans, with special help from **democrats.**

ccess - ealing

g for outlets

Here's a column Nancy wrote for the CSB student newspaper, then called *The Saints*, in October 1998.

1998-10-15, *The Saints* p.5

<https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/1661/rec/2>



Full disclosure: Nancy was a friend of my family's, so I can't think of her without a smile on her face, but working with her in an FYS classroom, she could be very serious and intent upon what she wanted her students to learn and accomplish. She was strident about feminism and education. If you had a difference of opinion, you had better be able to articulate your reasons very clearly, which is exactly what she would do.

September 16, 2007



Nancy was already dying from breast cancer when these photos were taken at the dedication of the newly renamed Nancy Hynes Institute for Women's Leadership on September 16, 2007.

Photos from the St. Ben's Monastery Archives. On left: Nancy with Jennifer Galovich; Ozzie Mayers is behind Nancy. On right: Sharon Nohner, OSB (Campus Ministry) and Nancy.

September 16, 2007

“On behalf of the students here at the College of St. Benedict we want to thank you for leading the way and teaching us to have the heart to seek truth.

Being here at St. Ben's we truly know what it means to be a woman and that it is a source of power.

We are very proud to be dedicating the Center in your honor.

We hope to continue the work you have started for many years to come.”

Alexa Gallet



In addition to tributes by her colleagues Ozzie Mayers, Sister Linda Kulzer, and Mary Geller, the then-Director of the IWL, Alexa Gallet, spoke these words:

“On behalf of the students here at the College of St. Benedict we want to thank you for leading the way and teaching us to have the heart to seek truth. Being here at St. Ben's we truly know what it means to be a woman and that it is a source of power...” <ENTER>

Photos from the St. Ben's Monastery Archives: Sharon Nohner, OSB (Campus Ministry) and Nancy.

September 16, 2007

“On behalf of the students here at the College of St. Benedict we want to thank you for leading the way and teaching us to have the heart to seek truth.

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Alexa Gallet



“We are very proud to be dedicating the Center in your honor. We hope to continue the work you have started for many years to come.”

Photos from the St. Ben's Monastery Archives: Mary Geller and Nancy.

Alexa Gallet's full remarks at
the Nancy Hynes Institute for
Women's Leadership
dedication

September 16, 2007

Good Morning everyone and Thank you for coming to this wonderful event.

My name is Alexa Gallet and I am the Student Director here at the Center.

I am here to tell you a little bit about the Center for Women and as I do you will see why we chose to name the Center after Sister Nancy.

The idea for the Center for Women came about in 2003 when CSB student Bethany Heinzen and a few other students joined together to form the mission and vision of the Center. Beth was named the first student director in 2004 and the Center took off from there. We are a student-led entity advised by a group of faculty and staff. As such, we as students are able to adapt to the needs of our students.

Our mission is:

To empower women to engage in inclusive dialogue, reflective thinking and ethical action that celebrates and recognizes women as shapers of our world.

We plan and execute various programs and I'll highlight a few of those.

First, our In Touch program facilitates mentoring between upper-class and first-year women. The mentor/mentee pairs are in contact throughout the academic year and participate in activities in order to form lasting friendships.

Second, Hot Chocolate Hot Topics is a program geared toward addressing important topics relating to gender. Faculty and staff lead discussions and raise questions that encourage student to further contemplate these topics.

Finally, the Center collaborates with the St. Ben's Senate to organize women's month every March.

The purpose of this month is to encourage the institutional community and beyond to celebrate, explore and empower women.

Women's month events include Bennie Pride dinners, talent shows, spirituality forums, fine arts performances, discussion panels and nationally recognized speakers.

Sister Nancy,

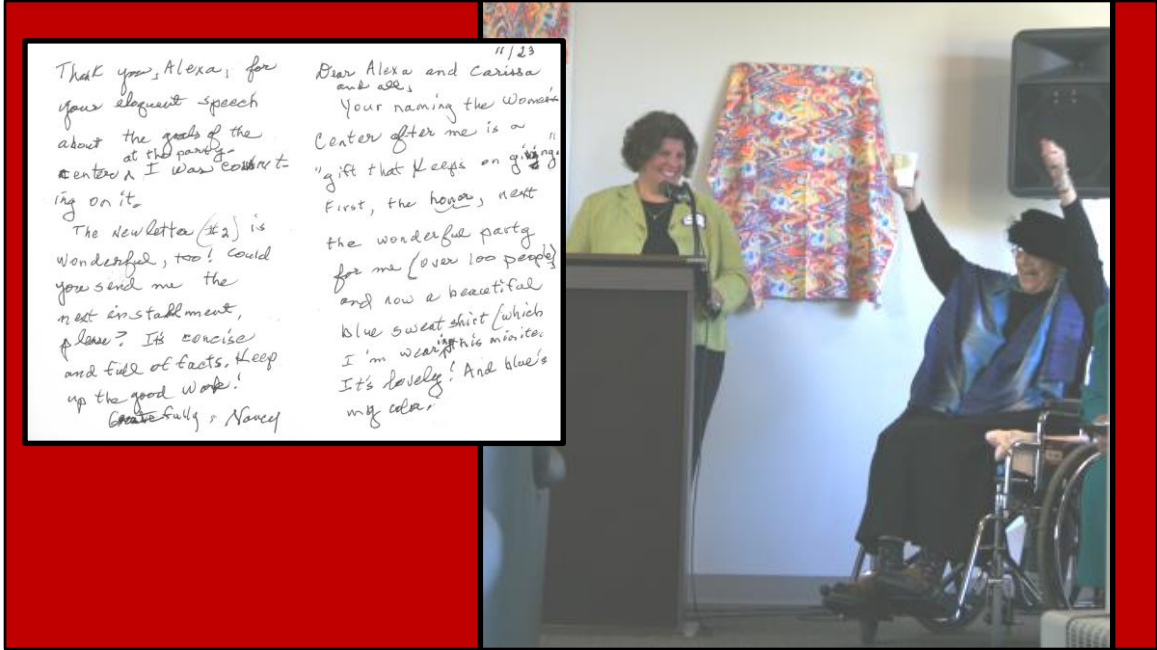
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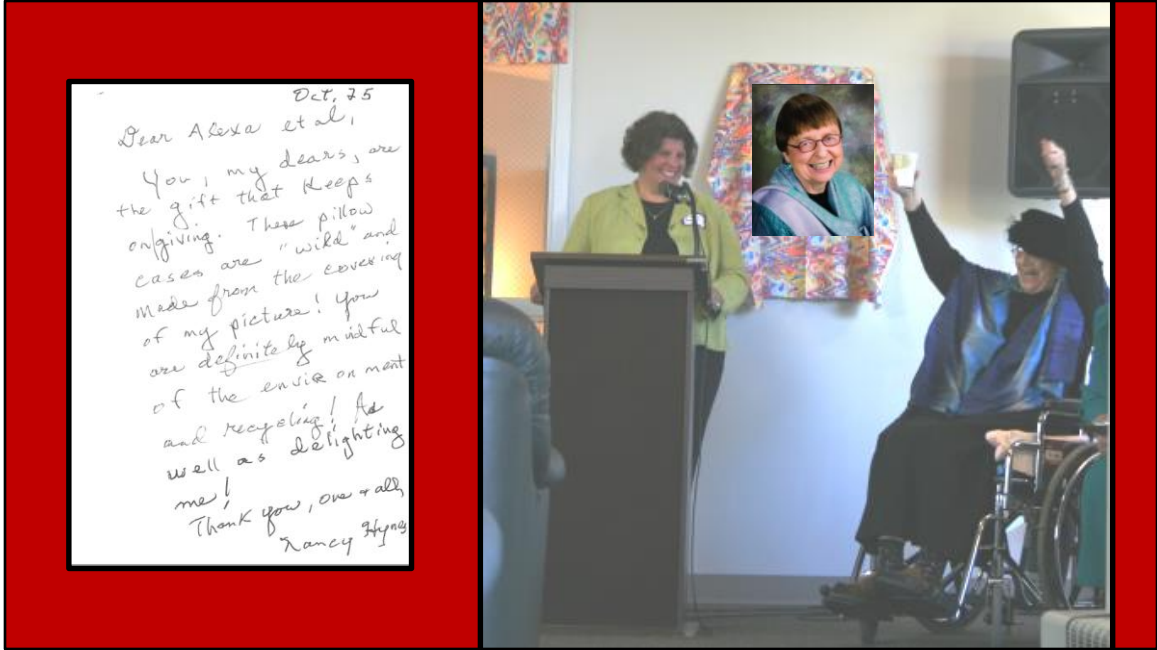
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03 14\AC 08.12 Box 01 Folder 16 alexa gallet.pdf



Nancy later sent this card thanking Alexa for her “eloquent speech,” the “wonderful” newsletter (“concise and full of facts”), for the naming honor – and for the fun party!

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Photos from the St. Ben’s Monastery Archives: Mary Geller and Nancy.



Evidently the students made pillowcases for Nancy out of the cloth shown here before Nancy's photo was unveiled outside the IWL. She thanked them for being mindful of the environment and recycling.

O:\Archives\csbarchives\Digital Archives\People\Hynes, Nancy\Sent to Brenda 2016 03 14\AC 08.12 Box 01 Folder 16 card 1.pdf & card 2.pdf

Photos from the St. Ben's Monastery Archives: Mary Geller and Nancy.

Thumbnail inset from <https://sbm.osb.org/2008/12/15/nancy-linus-hynes-osb/>

From *Saint Benedict's*, Fall 2013:

“The Institute was dedicated to S. Nancy Hynes in the fall of 2007. Her courses on gender issues focused on how both genders are affected in the ongoing struggle for equal human rights.

Of course, her work did not go forward without difficulty, as many Catholic colleges were not addressing those issues yet.



But her fiery personality and zeal for gender equality catalyzed this movement, and her abiding passion and spirit remains a role model for the student staff.”

“Proactive leadership” by Jennifer Simonton ‘13, former public relations coordinator for the S. Nancy Hynes Institute for Women’s Leadership. Fall 2013 *Saint Benedict's*, p. 13 <https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/6424/rec/2>
Thumbnail from <https://sbm.osb.org/2008/12/15/nancy-linus-hynes-osb/>

To give Nancy herself the last word:

She took the Catholic Church to task for its treatment of women and railed against the "White Male System" - which "hasn't changed much in 200 years." She would probably have become a priest if she could.

She wanted to "stick around to see what happens when women take us into Vatican III"!

But I would rather stick around and see what happens when women take us into Vatican III! I have a dream--yes, I do. Vatican III is where women and men listen to one another; where the dualist vision of flesh and spirit marking women as the "occasion of sin" is abolished; where the language of Scripture and liturgy celebrates both female and male; where all ministries, including priesthood, are open to those women and men who are called and qualified; where equal status is given to laywomen and women in religious orders; where women heroines of the past are remembered and celebrated.

From: O:\Archives\csbarchives\Digital Archives\People\Hynes, Nancy\ Hynes, Nancy women in Cath Church Vatican III ca1981 SJU 065Sh5Box3f10

"I'm the only person I know of who's been kicked out of Hospice."

- Sister Nancy



COLLEGE OF Saint Benedict

COVID-19 Resources and Information

- Sister Nancy Hynes Institute for Women's Leadership
- Newsletters
- History
- Philosophy
- Get Involved!
- Hynes Scholars
- Programs
- Staff Members
- IWL Throughout the Years
- CSB Student Development
- Bennie Career Closet

Institute for Women's Leadership | IWL

Home / Sister Nancy Hynes Institute for Women's Leadership

Sister Nancy Hynes Institute for Women's Leadership

Office Hours

Stop by our office in Murray Hall during the academic year to learn more about us and our programs!

To schedule an appointment, email us at iwl@csbsju.edu.

Sister Nancy Hynes Institute for Women's Leadership

"God is good! She never lets me down. I love my life of teaching, praying, singing and playing" -Sister Nancy Hynes

IWL website, 2021

Compiled in December 2021 from resources in the Archives of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint Benedict's Monastery by Peggy Landwehr Roske, CSB/SJU Archivist. All rights reserved.

Nancy's death in 2008 at the age of 75 was a big loss to St. Ben's. But she lasted longer than anyone expected. In fact, as an example of her humor, I remember well her telling us,

2021 <https://www.csbsju.edu/iwl>

Photo: O:\Archives\csbarchives\Photos\People\Sisters - OSB\Hynes, Nancy

OSB\Media Supplies Cabinet, box, no number color, 1 roll 4 sheets, 4\image33.tif

Addendum

Student Directors of CSB's Institute for Women's Leadership 2004-2021

2021-2022 Julia Geller

2020-2021 Brigit Stattelmann-Scanlan

2019-2020 Samantha Siyu

2018-2019 Lucy Dornbach

2018 Spring Magnolia Ditzler

2017 Fall Michelle Ozanich

2015-2017 Lisa Tu

2014-2015 Leah Ranta

2013-2014 Gaby Galeano

2011-2013 Elizabeth Beaty

2009-2011 Carrie Vandelac

2008-2009 Georgia Welle

2007-2008 Alexa Gallet

2006-2007 Cassie Brokke

2005-2006 Theresa Malton

2004-2005 Bethany Heinzen

2003-2004 Lisa Baker

Student
Directors of
the Nancy
Hynes
Institute for
Women's
Leadership,
2003-2021

Julia Geller
2021-2022



Brigit Stattelmann-Scanlan
2020-2021



Samantha Siyu
2019-2020

Lucy Dornbach
2018-2019



Magnolia Ditzler
Spring 2018



Michelle Ozanich
Fall 2017



[Former Student Directors – CSB/SJU \(csbsju.edu\)](https://www.csbsju.edu/iwl/history/past-student-directors)

<https://www.csbsju.edu/iwl/history/past-student-directors>

Scanlan photo from <https://www.csbsju.edu/iwl/iwl-staff/iwl-staff-2020-2021>

Geller photo from Julia Geller

Lisa Tu
2015-2017



Leah Ranta
2014 - 2015



Gaby Galeano
2013-2014



Elizabeth Beaty
2011 - 2013



Carrie Vandelac
2009 - 2011



[Former Student Directors – CSB/SJU \(csbsju.edu\)](http://csbsju.edu)



[Former Student Directors – CSB/SJU \(csbsju.edu\)](http://csbsju.edu)