



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265  
(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



August, 2006

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### Newsletter Editor

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jlyphout@mchsi.com

### Publicity

Mary Lorensen

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
September 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
September 18th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
October 7th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
October 7th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
October 16th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Visit the Center for more information and to stay updated on current events.

## Schedule for Volunteers

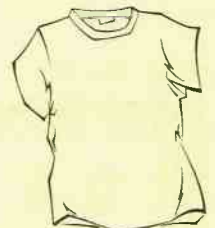
The August schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., August 2nd	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., August 5th	Millie Kale	Maureen Schwietzer
Wed., August 9th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Sat., August 12th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., August 16th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., August 19th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., August 23rd	Louis Slininger	Georgia Slininger
Sat., August 26th	Norma Manning	Millie Kale
Wed., August 30th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth

*Contact Margaret Wadsworth (786-5791) as soon as possible if there is a conflict with your scheduled time.*

*Don't forget to visit the Center  
for all your gift needs.*

*With a constant flow of new arrivals,  
you won't want to miss out on these great deals!*



**Center OPEN Wednesday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month**

## Scholarship Recipients

Another year has passed since distributing the Center for Belgium Culture's Scholarship Awards, and once again we have selected three very fine individuals who represent themselves, their family, our community, and our heritage proudly. The three winners this year are **Michelle Bollaert**, **Lara Applegate** and **Ann Verfaillie**. This month and the next two months their essays will be published, one at a time, in the newsletter. We are printing one at a time in order to conserve space for other newsletter headlines and is in no way a ranking of how the finalists were chosen. Congratulations to all.

This month, we honor **Michelle Bollaert**. Michelle is a graduate of Moline High School and is currently planning to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign to major in Kinesiology/Pre-physical Therapy. During her high school experience, she maintained a 4.0 grade point average and was 5th in her class of 517 students. She said that one of her most memorable high school experiences was dissecting a cat in Advanced Biology II the fall of her senior year. She was active in choir and theater, the Student Congress, Student Hunger Drive Chairperson, Key Club, Spanish National Honor Society, National Honor Society, Varsity Tennis, Varsity Track & Field, Young Life, Trinity VolunTeen, T.E.C., and was very active within her church. Congratulations Michelle on a great high school career.

### Michelle Bollaert Belgian Heritage Essay

"Grandpa, if you could describe a Belgian in one word, which word would you use?" I asked my grandpa while he was telling me about our Belgian heritage. "Hard-working" he replied matter-of-factly. A better word can not be found to describe my Belgian ancestors, especially my great grandfather, Florens Emma Bollaert. He was born in 1895 in Ghent, Belgium, and then immigrated to the United States five years later through Ellis Island. He lived with his family in Chicago, Illinois, where his father worked as a janitor in an apartment complex. His parents worked very hard in order to support their family, but never complained or let their son see the strain of their strenuous work schedules. Despite their low income, Florens' parents, Cesar and Mary, refused to let their son suffer a lack of education, so they saved every penny they earned to pay for Florens to go to medical school at Northwestern University.

After graduating in 1922 and marrying soon after, Florens and his new wife, Marion, moved to the Quad Cities area because of its large Belgian population and reputation. He began practicing medicine and moved into his first office in Moline, located on the corner of 7th Street and 18th Avenue, right across the street from today's

## Oops! Our Apology!

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience of not producing a July Newsletter. With summer almost over and time flying by, your staff at the Center have been trying to get in their summer vacations. However, we will continue to produce one newsletter a month which will be produced at the beginning of each month. To have your newsletter electronically emailed to you as soon as it's finished, please contact either [jlyphout@mchsi.com](mailto:jlyphout@mchsi.com) or [Belgium32@mchsi.com](mailto:Belgium32@mchsi.com) to put you on our email list.

Center for Belgian Culture. His practice began to flourish in the center of the Belgium community because of the great reputation he started to build for himself. Despite his growing popularity, he never turned down anyone who needed medical care, and he would accept chickens, baked goods, housework, etc. in lieu of payment if the patient didn't have enough money to pay for his services.

His practice extended outside his office as well. Florens made house calls and operated at Moline Public Hospital, creating a very busy schedule. In addition to providing one-on-one patient care, he also invented new medical equipment and was one of the first doctors to practice certain innovative medical procedures. For example, Florens was the first doctor in the Quad Cities to use hypnosis for sedation during surgery. He invented a motion hospital bed that controlled blood flow by moving up and down repeatedly and designed a leg support for polio patients. He would always do whatever it took to help his patients, even if it meant he had to invent something new.

Practicing medicine was not his only interest, however. Florens was a singer and actor, performing as the lead in his high school musical "Chocolate Soldier." He also was very involved in the Quad City Music Guild, performing in their first production "Sweethearts" and was in charge of organizing entertainment for the community. In addition, he sang in a concert at Augustana College every Easter.

Family was also a very important aspect of his life. In fact, when describing him, my grandpa used the words "family man." My grandpa recalls taking many trips with him to many different places in the country. Despite Florens' busy schedule, my grandpa said he never felt like his dad was working too much. He said he felt a strong, close relationship with him. He was even allowed to be in the medical office sometimes and help out, especially later when it was located in their residence.

*continued on page 3*



**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

*continued from page 2*

Learning about my great-grandfather is very interesting, and I am amazed at how much I have in common with him. Our first connection comes with our love for musical theater. Another similarity between my great-grandfather and I is our choice of career field. I plan on becoming a physical therapist and love helping people in any way I can. I highly respect how my great-grandfather would accept other forms of payment from those who were less fortunate and could not afford medical treatment. He inspires me to use a kind and loving attitude towards anyone I meet, regardless of their financial situation.

My grandfather, William Bollaert, was able to provide me with the Bollaert Belgian Ancestry, which goes back hundreds of years, because of his extensive research at the Mormon Library in Salt Lake City, his research on the internet, and his travels to Belgium. He loves sharing stories about his travels to Belgium and even informed me that the City Hall Building in Ghent was built by a Bollaert. I would also love to travel to Belgium someday and would especially like to study abroad there while I am in college.

Like my grandpa says, Belgians are hard-working. I now understand where my hard-working attitude comes from, and I am proud to say that I inherited it from my Belgian ancestors. I know if I work as hard as my great-grandfather and other ancestors did, I will be successful. I would also like to thank the scholarship committee at the Center for Belgian Culture for giving me the opportunity to learn more about my Belgian heritage.



**Congratulations are in Order!**

Daniella Roggenbauer and Jessie Brewer, both of Milan, announce their engagement. She is the daughter of Ronald & Shyla Roggenbauer, Green Bay, Wisconsin. He is the son of Kim & Wayne Loveland, Crete, Illinois, and Mike Brewer, Macomb. The couple will be married Saturday, August 5th, at Camden Park, Milan. Relatives and friends are invited to the 5:00 p.m. ceremony and potluck reception following at the park.

Celie & Gene Donohue will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 11, 2006. They were married at Sacred Heart Church in Moline, Illinois. Congratulations on a successful marriage!

*With Deepest Sympathies . . .*

Dorene Mummert passed away on Saturday, July 8, 2006. She gave selflessly to her family and many others in need and was truly an independent person who always had a cheerful attitude. She is survived by her son, Scott, daughter-in-law, Lisa, and grandchildren, Carson and Lindsay.

**Thank You Volunteers!**

As the year at the Center closes and a new year started with the election of a new Executive Board, we would like to thank all those special people who help make the Center what it is. Without you, the Center would not be able to function. All of the countless hours from our wonderful volunteers are greatly appreciated. And to show our appreciation, the Executive Board is throwing a party in your honor! That's right. In place of the August Executive Board meeting, we are thanking our volunteers in style. On Monday, August 21st, at 5:30 p.m. we will be having a dinner for all of the volunteers. This will also be a great chance to meet the new Board members. Please call Evelyn Van Puyvelde for reservations at 764-8042.

We would like to "thank" all of those volunteers you saw working at the July Waffle Breakfast. Lois & Fred DeCoster, Bill Fisher, Louis & Georgia Slininger, Joel & Bohnie Newman and kids, Gene Donohue all helped. Thanks to all. We are always looking for volunteers! If you would like to give your time to allow our heritage to continue for generations to follow, sign up at the Center today. A sign up for the Waffle Breakfasts are located on the bulletin board by the coat hangers. Thanks to all who have helped in the past, we greatly appreciate it.

Another thank you goes to Margaret Wadsworth who coordinates our fantastic volunteers and spends a lot of time and effort making sure there are people to help visitors when they arrive. Thank you Margaret!

If you feel that you can give your time and talents to a greater cause, then come volunteer at the Center. We would welcome any new volunteers. After all, it's not only what the Center does for you, but more importantly what can you do for your Center for Belgian Culture. Thanks to all who help!

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of Western Illinois, Inc.**

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## CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

August, 2006

### A Saint Within Our Mist

*from The Dispatch*

Two decades after Archbishop Fulton John Sheen died, Catholic leaders say two dying people survived through prayers, in the name of the Illinois native who became a national celebrity in the early days of television. Officials hope the alleged miracles ultimately bring sainthood for the small-screen pioneer from tiny El Paso, whose weekly Christian program was America's most watched show at one point during its five-year run in the 1950s.

Though a key to sainthood, miracles don't even come into play until a tribunal researches the life and works of the late archbishop, a process that began in 2003 for Sheen and could take five or ten more years. Msgr. Soseman said the miracles attributed to Sheen are "powerful" based on the evidence collected from family members and doctors. If canonized today, Sheen would be the first Saint from Illinois and the first male saint born in the U.S., said Bill Ryan, spokesman for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

### Hoover Library Visits the Center

On Wednesday, July 26th, 30 docents from the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library visited our Center. They enjoyed watching Joyce Haskins make lace and listened to Art Holevoet who spoke on St. Anthony, the pig, and Belgian horses. Patrick Van Nevel spoke and introduced Don Welvaert, Mayor of Moline; Scott Raes, Alderman; and Larry Lorensen, past Mayor. The group enjoyed their afternoon of tasting the desserts, asking questions, watching the lacemakers, and shopping the Kline Winkel.

Desserts were provided by Mary & Larry Lorensen, Evelyn & Al Van Puyvelde, Art Holevoet, and Delores Bultinck. The visiting group was led by the Presidential Library-Museum, Coordinator, Kathy Grace. Hosting the event at the Center was Celie & Gene Donohue and Georgia & Louis Slininger.