## Strength in Mission



2022 ANNUAL REPORT MARIAN UNIVERSITY





### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Strength** manifests itself in numerous ways at Marian. We see it in our mission, core values, faculty creativity, staff dedication, student grit, and administrative decision-making, all of which are underpinned by our Catholic Agnesian heritage. As Marian moves forward, its strengths become more evident through the examples provided by all members of our community. Decision-making occurs with the realization that Marian's future must be sustained, and is seen through new learning opportunities proffered for students, faculty, staff, and administration. Whether these opportunities include new programs of study for students, or continued learning for staff, faculty, or administration, they are created to make its recipients relevant and strong for the future.

Marian remains germane due to its ability to anticipate the future strengths needed to provide our community with the requisite knowledge, skills, values, and expertise for success. Marian is fortunate to have a strong Board of Trustees guiding choices for future development and committed to the success of our graduates. Below you will find examples of strength spread throughout the Annual Report, and I invite you to review each one with special attention to how they sustain Marian's future.

Some examples of the strength at Marian include:

- STUDY ABROAD, where students traveled to Poland;
- DR. SARAH GARVEY being recognized for her passion and expertise in teaching by being the recipient of the Underkofler Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching award;
- A **SERVICE TRIP** for students to New Mexico;
- **LEADERSHIP STRENGTH** coming from Dr. Ken Mulliken, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Daisy Halvorson, Vice President for Finance and Administration;
- Addition of the **CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT MINOR** program of study;
- MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BOWLING teams' championship in back-to-back years;
- The induction of five faculty for **PROFESSOR EMERITUS** status.

I thank you for your support of Marian University and its mission.

Warmly,

Michelle E. Majewski, Psy.D., President

Michelle E. Majewski



uring the 2022 spring term, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Dr. David Leichter, and Associate Professor of History, Dr. Matthew Szromba, co-taught a topic both passionately agree is vitally important. They taught History and Memory of the Holocaust, an interdisciplinary course for Honors Program credit. Throughout the semester, students examined the Holocaust through two disciplines: history and philosophy. Students learned philosophy through history and learned about history through philosophy. They learned about the historical events of the Holocaust while also considering how dehumanization led to catastrophe and how the memory of this tragedy is often distorted or forgotten.

Students' learning experience culminated with a two-week trip to Poland. Along with four faculty, the group left on May 10 and traveled 4,600 miles to Poland. They spent nearly every day learning about the Holocaust through guided walking tours, museum visits, and trips to sites of memory, but the trip itinerary also made time for fun and high adventure along the way.

The Holocaust is an enormously complex and nuanced phenomenon that one could spend several academic lifetimes studying. For instance, students discovered history of the Holocaust is often misremembered or forgotten, and local Poles don't always memorialize this atrocity in the ways we might imagine. While in Poland students visited Auschwitz-Birkenau,

a Nazi death camp near Kraków in Germanoccupied Poland. Nemiah Whitston '23, a senior in the Expressive Therapy & Arts Program, recalls visiting Majdanek Concentration Camp in Lublin, and walking through the "Gates of Hell," the main entrance to the death camp. She admits this experience was emotionally intense and one that is difficult to articulate in words and shared, "With our arms around each other, we stood together in silence and remembered the innocent victims of hatred, bigotry, and injustice."

Taking the lessons from the classroom and traveling to visit the sites where the memory of the Holocaust continues to live is one goal of this study abroad experience, but it is not the only goal. According to Dr. Szromba, "studying abroad is a transformative experience for students. Students tend to return from study abroad as more broad-minded persons, as better problem solvers, as more skilled learners, and as more mature individuals. Study abroad can be a very humbling, yet rewarding, experience for students." Indeed, a small group of students were humbled to discover, much to their dismay, that a language barrier can result in hotel laundry service fees of 200 US dollars!

An avid traveler, Morgan Hernandez '23, is proud that she paid for her trip amidst the financial strain of college life. She found it incredible to be immersed in a new culture and appreciated the significant impact of the classroom time that preceded the on-site learning experiences in Poland. Morgan believes, "These memories will

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With our arms around each other, we stood together in silence and remembered the innocent victims of hatred, bigotry, and injustice."

Nemiah Whitston '23



last forever and the money invested in studying abroad will come back." While admitting that some of the memories are haunting, like walking through a punishment barrack at Auschwitz, this humbling journey taught Morgan to be more empathetic and understanding of the struggles people face and she is certain this will translate into her future social work career.

Dr. Leichter hopes the trip inspired his students to think beyond what they learned in class and experienced in Poland. He cautioned students not to let monuments and memorials do the work of remembering. He instead encouraged students to consider how their memory of the Holocaust, and this trip, might motivate them to act. Nemiah acknowledged that it's normal to think, "oh that's in the past." But she believes the looming shadow of the Holocaust requires that we remain vigilant to stand against all injustice — big and small. She asserts, "I have learned the importance of supporting those in my community who are marginalized and I will speak up remembering that it was the small injustices that ultimately led to the murder of six million Jews."









Clockwise from above: Holy Cross Church of Warsaw, Old Town Square in Warsaw, Monument located at Umschlagplatz in Warsaw, Wieliczka Salt Mine, and the steps of Nozyk Synagogue in Warsaw.



## Dr. Sarah Garvey Recipient of Underkofler Award

#### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY,

Dr. Sarah Garvey, was named the recipient of the 2021–22 James Underkofler Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Admired by students, Dr. Garvey has been teaching chemistry at Marian for the past eight years and has a reputation for challenging students to discover their full potential while supporting students' individual needs. During her undergraduate course work, first-generation student Chantilly (Hartman) Yakes '21

worked with Dr. Garvey as a professor, academic advisor, and club advisor. Going beyond the walls of her classroom, Chantilly also found a mentor in Dr. Garvey and writes, "Dr. Garvey is a brilliant, talented, and passionate teacher who offers students a well-rounded education and more. She has given her students the ability to look back at our Marian education, and remember it as a second home."

Dr. Garvey was nominated by fellow colleagues with whom she collaborates. Dr. John Hammond

and Dr. Kowalski wrote, "Dr. Garvey is an outstanding student-driven educator who strives to both hold students accountable

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-Chantilly (Hartman) Yakes '21

for their professional aspirations and creates a welcoming, inclusive learning space." In addition to teaching, Dr. Garvey serves as the Math and Natural Sciences Department Chair and is the faculty advisor for the Science and Math Association.

This prestigious award was created to honor James R. Underkofler, and is administered by the Wisconsin

Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Honored to be nominated and selected among so many talented colleagues, Dr. Garvey expressed, "As an educator, my number one goal is to teach the students how to learn and become independent thinkers. Winning this award has been an amazing acknowledgment of my efforts in and out of the classroom. Everything I do is for the students and I am so grateful for the connections I have made over the years."





magine a place so remote that the nearest place to treat a medical emergency is more than two hours away, firefighters are at least an hour away, and law enforcement is nonexistent. In this outlying place, clean water is often inaccessible. Only 60% of the people have access to running water but their faucets run black with sediment, orange with rust, and the water smells of oil. Picture nearly half a million people — many indigenous — living in this city that has been infiltrated by oil companies drilling in their backyards. Now imagine — this city is in the United States of America.

Recent graduate, Kayla Bender '22, lives to serve. She found her passion in serving others and at 21 years young, Kayla has been on seven mission trips all over the United States. After the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the entire world for more than a year, including a mission trip planned to Memphis, the desire to serve again burned deep within her. While volunteering at Ruby's Pantry with fellow classmate and friend, Kaniala Aragon '23, Kayla approached him with her vision. Kaniala had the same desire and, as president of Campus Ministry, was also trying to plan a mission trip. Together, they brainstormed, organized, and facilitated fundraising efforts. With the support of Campus Ministry, Circle K, the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes, a few area businesses, and private donors, Kayla and Kaniala spearheaded every detail of this service mission trip — choosing to serve at a Navajo Reservation in New Mexico.

Twelve Marian students and four faculty members traveled to a rural part of this Navajo Reservation — a place with no address and limited infrastructure including dirt roads. They met with a pastor named Harry and his wife, Blanch. The grieving couple had recently lost their daughter to breast cancer and found positive support in this community that arrived to serve. Most efforts centered around the church and nearby cemetery. The team built a porch, stained the church entrance, worked on the roof, landscaped, completed the demolition of a decrepit building on the property, and cleaned up the cemetery.

Filled with gratitude for the completed projects, Harry and Blanch were emotional in sharing how much this meant and said they were impressed by the strong work ethic of all students. The group even helped Blanch

make fry bread one night and she expressed feeling such joy in the midst of grieving and admitted she's never had men willing to help her in the kitchen! As one of those men that impressed Blanch, Kaniala reflects, "This opportunity allowed us to take part in a service that few ever get to experience. This unfiltered experience provided us with perspective into how life is on the reservation and the ongoing struggles of the Navajo."

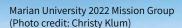
The visionary of this trip and fierce leader who jumped every hurdle, Kayla believes, "It's one thing to learn about a different culture from a textbook. But to live among the people and experience the injustices opens

your eyes to a very different perspective and teaches you how other people really live."
Both Kayla and Kaniala attest that this trip engaged each of Marian's core values.
Through serving together, fellow classmates became friends and developed strong roots at Marian and they strengthen the belief that a mission statement is best

taught, by doing.









## Our Mission in Action

#### MARIAN'S WORKING FAMILIES GRANT (WFG)

**PROGRAM** is more than tuition assistance. As one of the nation's most comprehensive educational programs, it changes the trajectory of life for economically disadvantaged single parents — and their children. For more than twenty years, WFG has made it possible for 220 students to achieve their undergraduate degrees while achieving a graduation rate of 86%.

For every single parent who participates, the ripple effect of education extends beyond the name printed on their diploma. It shapes the future of their children and generations to come. Since 2002, more than 460 children have watched their parents achieve academic success. But WFG services also move beyond the classroom in offering mentoring, counseling, career assessments, academic planning, budgeting, life skills workshops, and employee preparations.

















Marian University and the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes co-sponsored the Education Grant for Women and Children in 1996, following Wisconsin's inception of the "Work not Welfare" program. In 2002, the program was created through a unique collaboration with an anonymous donor to expand CSA's mission. Inspired to further one's education, the WFG works to advance Marian's mission, core values, and legacy of service.























## Working Families Grant BY THE NUMBERS\*



## of WFG students graduate

This exceeds the national graduation rate for students of all income levels — 59%

**274** 

students have participated in WFG since it began in 2002

**220** 

students have graduated

**460** 

WFG has served more than 460 children

1,200

Approximately 1,200 community service hours per year donated in the community



## A significant number of graduates

enter helping professions such as nursing, social work, psychology, education, and criminal justice Honoring
the Legacy
of Two
Trailb

CELEBRATING THE LIVES OF TWO VISIONARY SISTERS,

offered the Marian community

an opportunity to reminisce, grieve, and share stories. Both changed the landscape of Marian University, and their lives of service through the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes (CSA) bestows a legacy that will continue in the future.

Described as a mentor, leader, and force of nature; **Sr. Judith Schmidt '62** learned in the same Marian classrooms that she would later teach in. She served as: Vice President of Development (1987–1997) and Vice President for Community Relations and Mission (1997–2001). Sr. Judith was instrumental in the creation of Marian's mission statement and together with President Emeritus Dr. Richard Ridenour, the University's core values. Her "can do" attitude led her to serve in the community she loved, and despite that full plate of her ministry life, she was a friend to all who knew her.



Scan to view
Sr. Judith's
Celebration
of Life video.

**Sr. Deborah Walter '71** was Director of the Student Support Center during the 1980s and served as a Working Families Grant (WFG) Program Counselor until the end of 2021. The WFG

Scan to view
Sr. Deb's
Celebration
of Life video.

Program blossomed from a simple planting of an idea — Sr. Deb's idea! Gifted in building relationships, Sr. Deb's legacy will live on in the lives of all those she ministered to and the ripple effect of changed lives will be felt for generations.

azers

Both women were strong in their faith, devoted to education as learners and teachers, and passionate about moving Marian University forward. Their humble way of leading and inspirational love for life reminds us that a successful life is often measured by the difference you still make long after you're gone.

## Honoring Excellence











Delighted to gather after a two-year break amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Marian held its 2022 Hall of Fame and Alumni Awards event in person. To recognize and celebrate the contributions, achievements, and success of Marian alumni embodies the University's mission to transform lives. Inductees into the Hall of Fame include one student-athlete, one coach, and two teams.

#### **Individual Inductees:** 1 Kristin (Englebert) Heurkens

'02 became the fifth multi-sport athlete to be inducted after playing prominent roles in both the women's volleyball and basketball programs. Heurkens earned All-LMC recognition all four seasons of her career with

the women's volleyball program, along with an LMC Newcomer of the Year selection in 1998, and an All-LMC Honorable Mention for one season of her career with the women's basketball program.

2 Ann Felker became the fifth head coach to be inducted into the Hall of Fame after leading the Marian women's softball team to three conference championships and a pair of NCAA Tournament berths over five seasons. Felker coached from 2000-01 and 2004-06 compiling a 112–91 mark, one of only two coaches to reach 100 career wins in program history. She was named the LMC Coach of the Year in her first two seasons at Marian sparking a run of four-consecutive NCAA Tournament berths.

#### **Team Inductees:**

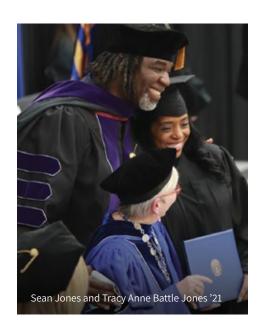
- 3 The 2000 men's baseball team became the second team from the program to earn induction into the Hall of Fame. The Sabres won nine of their final 10 games in conference action to earn the regular-season title and became the only team in program history to earn a spot in the NCAA Tournament. Also inducted, the
- 4 2000 women's softball team, started a dominant run for the program as the Sabres reached four straight NCAA Tournaments. The team built up a head of steam going into postseason action and was able to close out the regular season 12–1 in the final 13 games. The Sabres then dominated the LMC Tournament with four straight wins, three of which were decided

by four or more runs, to earn a bid into the NCAA Tournament.

#### Distinguished **Alumni Award:**

**5** Bethany Rusch '01 Bethany Rusch is an alumna of UWO-Fond du Lac and earned her Bachelor of Social Work degree, Summa Cum Laude, from Marian University. She has a Master of Social Work degree with an Administration/ Management concentration from UW-Oshkosh. Bethany is currently the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration for UWO.





## Achievements are a Lifelong Journey

Successful business owner, entrepreneur, professional athlete, and college graduate are just a few of **Dwight "Sean" Jones'** accomplishments. The class of 2021 winter commencement speaker is best known for his long NFL playing career including a Super Bowl XXXI victory with the Green Bay Packers.

As Sean spoke, one very important person looked back at him. Graduating with a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, Sean's wife, Tracy Anne Battle Jones '21 was one of Marian's newest alumni. It isn't every day that your husband doubles as the commencement speaker at your college graduation!

Though Sean's success on the football field is admirable, professional sports is only part of his story. Growing up in rural Jamaica, Sean recalled feeling angry when his family moved to the United States. But that decision taught him "comfort and growth cannot exist together." A lifelong learner, his list of academic abbreviations is impressive and includes a BS in marketing, MBA, MPA, and JD. While proud of each achievement, Sean's inspiring message reminded graduates that knowledge is just the beginning. He said, "In many ways, our decisions are more important than what we learn and we must challenge ourselves to go beyond what is comfortable."

## Going Forward Together

A pioneer and advocate for social justice, **Sister Simone Campbell** (a Roman Catholic Sister of Social Service) lives with the vision to create programs and policies that support faith, family, and fairness. She is a religious leader, attorney, and author with extensive experience in public policy and advocacy for systemic change. The spring class of 2022 commencement speaker, Sister Simone Campbell encouraged the newest Marian alumni to put four virtues in their backpacks as they move forward into the future:

An eagerness to continue learning — or "holy curiosity."

Sacred gossip which happens when we risk sharing with others what has been learned through holy curiosity.

**Joy and a sense of humor** — the virtue Sr. Simone asserts has the power to spark innovation and new ways of serving.

With "Hope" as the last virtue, Sr. Simone contends it "is the one that keeps us moving forward."

In closing, Sr. Simone inspired the class, "know you've learned a few things but even more important, know that you have special skills, special gifts of holy curiosity, sacred gossip, and the capacity to celebrate with joy and bring hope to our troubled world. This is what our world needs now, this is how we go on unbroken roads trusted with the problems of today and tomorrow. We go forward together."



## **University News**



## Leading into the Future

The 2021–22 academic year welcomed two new leaders to the Marian community. **Dr. Ken Mulliken** became the Vice President for Academic Affairs. With extensive experience in higher education, Dr. Mulliken said, "I was drawn to Marian University's mission and vision, and I am deeply committed to the same values promoted by the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes — specifically service and education of the whole person." Collaborating across campus, he oversees academic programming ensuring a high-quality learning environment that is innovative, relevant, and strategic.

Another proven leader, Dr. Daisy Halvorson joined the team as Marian's Vice President for Finance and Administration. President Majewski believes Dr. Halvorson's background in higher education will help strengthen the financial position and shares, "The skills and knowledge that she brings to this position will support Marian's vision to preserve mission-driven financial security while enhancing a reputation for providing affordable education, and we look forward to incorporating her ideas into our future growth plan." Dr. Halvorson oversees budget development and all fiscal operations.

## Transforming Great Learners into Strong Leaders

The Marian University Center for Organizational Success (COS) is designed to help organizations and aspiring leaders learn the skills needed to positively impact their field and create rewarding careers. Geared for both individuals and organizations, the mission of COS is guided by our Agnesian Catholic values while also focusing on ethics, leadership, and innovation.

Providing education with a purpose to lifelong learners, the COS offers distinct educational opportunities by leveraging on-site workshops and customizable programs to serve those seeking professional development opportunities.

Partnering with Wendy Baughman, an international trainer, speaker, and business coach; Marian's COS sponsored a summer-long workshop series.

Dr. Sarah Garvey attended the summer workshops and shared, "This leadership series was very informational and interesting. I learned a great deal in the sessions; including effective communication, organization, and how to be an effective leader. The workshops were highly discussion-based and the experiences of others greatly enhanced the conversations. Wendy did a phenomenal job, the time just flew by, and I was left wanting to learn even more."





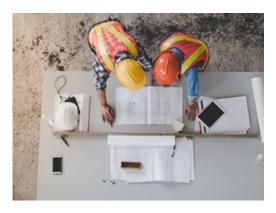


## Sabre Bowling Outshines Competition

Rolling into the new academic year, Marian's men's and women's bowling programs hope to keep the winning momentum high. Celebrating back-to-back College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin (CCIW) championships, the women's team is being recognized as one of the up-andcoming teams in the country. Coach Dan Mueller shares, "Seeing how these young ladies work every day together to make each other better bowlers is a great thing to be part of."

Finishing second during the regular season of the Great Lakes Bowling Conference (GLBC) play, the men's team was defeated after reaching the championship match. However, in the first game of that championship match, Marian bowled their first "300 Baker" game in program history. Coach Mueller describes this culmination of hard work as an amazing accomplishment and states, "watching their love of the game and enthusiasm for their teammates' success is the greatest feeling."

Coach Dan Mueller started recruiting for both the men's and women's bowling programs in 2018 with competition beginning in 2019. While he enjoys teaching the game, his coaching extends beyond the bowling alley and into the classroom where he requires his student-athletes to maintain a 3.0 GPA and make academics their top priority. Encouraging them to put team success above individual success, Coach Mueller is teaching life lessons that he hopes will reach into the future — especially in their careers.



## **Building Futures**

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that construction management has an 11% growth rate, which means that it is a profession with increasing job opportunities. Today, the construction industry is looking for strong leaders with a myriad of skills: project management, scheduling, workforce management, regulatory knowledge, communication, budgeting, and risk management.

Given the increasing labor market indicators, Marian is excited to be embarking on the journey to build a bachelor's degree in Construction Management. The program will provide both in-class and experiential education in order to prepare students for all facets of construction management, from planning and budgeting to coordinating a workforce.

## Professors Emeriti



Dr. Sheryl Ayala came to 37 years of service to Marian, she has held ranks of Associate Professor and served as Chair of Math and Natural Sciences and Vice President of Academic Dr. Ayala received her B.S. (Zoology),





Sr. Cyndi Nienhaus, CSA, Ph.D. '90, started at Marian University in 2008 as an instructor in Theology. She served as Assistant and Associate Professor, and earned tenure in 2015. Sr. Cyndi received her B.S.Ed. in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Marian University, an M.A. in Pastoral Studies at Saint Francis Seminary and a Ph.D. in Religious Education at Fordham University. During her time at Marian, she taught undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral courses. She participated in many committees, including: Higher Learning Commission Reaffirmation of Accreditation and Curriculum and Educational Standards Committee, and the Personnel Committee.

**Dr. Larry Reynolds** arrived at Marian University in 1991 to teach in the Social Work and Psychology programs. During his 22 years at Marian, he served as field director in Social Work, Associate Professor, Professor, Director of the Social Work Program, and founding Dean of the School of Social and Behavioral Science. He was granted tenure at Marian University in 1996. Since his retirement in 2013, he has continued to serve Marian students as an adjunct professor in Social Work and Psychology courses. Dr. Reynolds earned a B.A. in Sociology at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, an M.S.W. from Washington University in St. Louis, and a Ph.D. in Social Work from Loyola University-Chicago.

**Dr. James Dunphy** began teaching at Marian University in 1991, having earned a B.S. in Mathematics and Computer Science from UW-La Crosse and a M.S. in Mathematics Education from UW-Oshkosh. In 2001, he received a Ph.D. in Educational Program Evaluation from Graduate School at the Union Institute. He served as Associate Professor of Mathematics, in addition to serving in many administrative capacities and on many committees, including: Mathematics Department Chair, Institutional Review Board, and Curriculum and Educational Standards Committee.





Sr. Donna Innes, CSA, Ph.D. '67, of America. During her 28+ years at Marian, served as Director of the Study Abroad Program, Assistant Provost, Dean of Professional, Adult and Continuing Education, and the Director of Alternative Teacher Certification Program.



### Summary of Revenues and Expenses\*

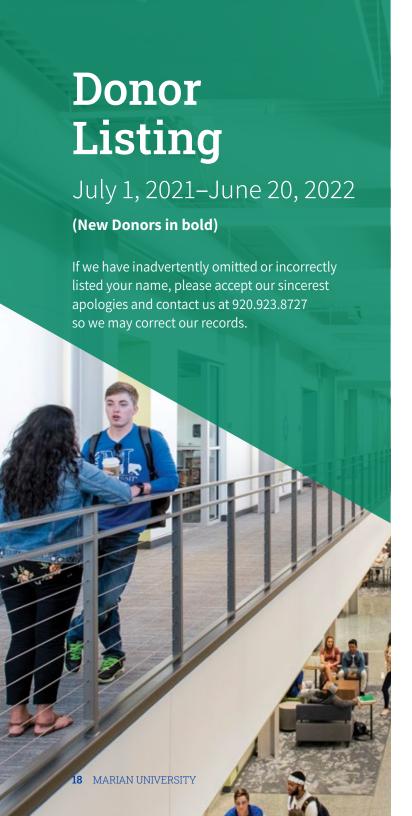
Devenue	2021–22	2020-21
Revenues	¢ 17.655	ć 10.700
Net tuition and fees	\$ 17,655	\$ 19,789
Auxiliary enterprises	3,306	4,172
Gifts, grants, and bequests	9,334	14,777
Investment return and other	(1,368)	3,724
Total Revenues	\$ 28,927	\$ 42,462
_		
Expenses		
Instruction	\$ 6,597	\$ 7,073
Academic support	2,641	2,934
Student services	6,766	6,851
Institutional support	5,297	5,235
Plant operations	2,317	2,744
Auxiliary enterprises	2,111	2,778
Total Expenses	\$ 25,732	\$ 27,615
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 3,194	\$ 14,847

## Summary of Financial Position\*

Total Net Assets	\$ 56,090	\$ 51,354
Total Liabilities	2,538	10,436
Total Assets	\$ 58,628	\$ 61,790
	2021–22	2020–21

<sup>\*</sup>As of June 30 for the year noted.

Financial information is subject to approval of the Marian University Board of Trustees.



#### Investor Level \$25,000 and more

#### **INDIVIDUALS**

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Simon

#### **COMPANIES AND FOUNDATIONS**

Anonymous Donor Baker Family Foundation C.D. Smith Construction, Inc. C.D. Smith Foundation Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes Drexel Building Supply

#### **Charles Thomas**

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J. F. Ahern Co. Mercury Marine Mid-States Aluminum Foundation Inc. Mike Shannon Automotive Foundation, Inc. Sadoff Family Foundation Barbara and Peter Stone Family Foundation, Inc.

#### Advancement Level \$10,000-\$24,999

#### **INDIVIDUALS**

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#### **COMPANIES AND FOUNDATIONS**

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#### Graphic Design Marketing, Inc.

Home Team Sports & Apparel Midwest Turf Muza Sheet Metal Oshkosh Corporation Dr. R.G. Raymond and Sarah Raymond Foundation Sadoff Iron & Metal

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#### **INDIVIDUALS**

Stacey L. Akey '92/'96 and Jeff Clark Mary Ann Austin Josefina Baltodano Nancy '07/'09/'22 and Norman Birschbach Kathleen Candee Rees W. Candee Henry Chang Pam George '73 James Glinski '74 Larry and Debra '01 Heller David J. Hornung Claudia R. Huettl Leslie Jaber-Wilson '91 and Kevin Wilson Lisa L. Kidd

#### Linda Kolpitcke

George E. Koonce James '97 and Shannon '95/'02 LaLuzerne Mark Lasky Sue Martin Gina Possin '12 Stephen P. Recca

#### David Redman

Frederic G. Sanford Joan Schilke '65 Carol Smart '60 Mr. and Mrs. John A. St. Peter Rose Marie Vickery '82 David W. Wong

#### **COMPANIES AND FOUNDATIONS**

Altrusa International Foundation of FDL, Inc. Badger Liquor Company, Inc. Baker Cheese Factory, Inc. The Fond du Lac Area Foundation



Men's Hockey wins its third consecutive NCHL Hap Cup Championship, February 2022

The Grande Foundation

#### **GRR MOM Charities**

Mayville Engineering Company, Inc. Michels Corporation Michels Family Foundation Francis R and Ruth E. Oberreich Foundation The Parks Family Charitable Fund Matthew and Joretta Shinners Family Fund WE Energies Foundation Jerry Wille Family

#### Founder's Club \$500-\$999

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Emilie Gillanders Wesley and Lauren L. Goebel David and Jody Hartzell Amy L. Hennings Sharon Hilbert '72. Joshua '10 and Laura '10 Ingram Megan E. Liptow Michael Moos John and Judith O'Brien Richard and Leslie Ridenour

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Bethany Rusch '01 Benjamin '01 and Noel '03 Soman Kerry Ann Strupp '04 Harlan Swift '75 Sonia June Szemborski '03/'08 Katherine '99 and Pete Vergos James Wegmann '00 Clay Willmington Jeffrey '09 and Trisha Wills

#### **COMPANIES AND FOUNDATIONS**

Advanced Tooling, Inc. Holiday Automotive Mid-States Aluminum Corporation

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#### **Sentry Insurance Foundation**

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#### **Naber Society** \$250-\$499

#### **INDIVIDUALS**

Jennifer K. Farvour Jean Braun Michael and Sarah Garvey

#### **Daisy Halvorson**

Nathaniel and Kathleen Hughes Christopher S. Joch '96 Philip R. Johnson Daniel Klossner Rosalie Koenen '69 Christine Larson '93 Bonnie L. Luhmann '72

#### Connor Martin '20

John E. Pautz John Pfeifer Jeffrey Reed Charlotte Snow '93 Lorette SASN '47 and William Wambach M. Dianne Zande '66

#### **COMPANIES AND FOUNDATIONS**

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Gustman Chevrolet Buick & GMC Immel Insurance & Financial Services

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Signature Homes by Adashun Jones Silica For Your Home Stuart's Landscaping & Garden Center Summit Automotive Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Wrightway Home Improvement, LLC

#### Sabre Society \$100-\$249

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Sarah Beardsley '16

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# Adult Student Takes Dreams of Academic Success and Manifests them into Reality

#### THE FIRST IN HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY WITH A COLLEGE EDUCATION,

**Ndiva Malafa '19/'21** was born the son of a Nigerian immigrant. He reveres his father for the selfless sacrifices he made in the pursuit of a better life. Raised by his intelligent and hard-working parents, Ndiva was always encouraged to believe anything is possible and exemplifies what many refer to as the "American Dream." Though his parents didn't go to college, they believed education was an integral facet of success.

#### A Reflection of Himself

As a young child growing up in Madison, Ndiva loved to play the age-old game of "cops and robbers" and he dreamed of becoming a police officer. But until he met Tracey Williams, Ndiva held this close — as just a dream. Ndiva met Williams through an organization called, "Urban League of Greater Madison (ULGM)" who's mission is to ensure that African Americans and other community members are educated, employed and empowered to live well, advance professionally, and contribute to the common good in the 21st Century.

Williams, a passionate advocate for equality and social justice, is living proof that one person can make a big difference. She learned that Ndiva was interested in law enforcement and arranged for him to meet Madison Chief of Police, Noble Wray. This experience was a pivotal turning point. Ndiva marveled at the large administrative building as he walked into it that day, but found himself most awestruck at meeting Chief Wray.

Ndiva could see a reflection of himself in Chief Wray. He had always dreamed that one day he would wear a police uniform, but on this day, Ndiva was infused with hope and the belief that it was possible.



## **Success Story**





#### Success is a Combination of **Preparation and Luck**

The Malafa family moved to the Milwaukee area in Ndiva's senior year of high school. After graduation, Ndiva started working at Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) as a Police Aide. He went to Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) and put himself through the police academy. After a couple years with MPD, he achieved his first career goal with a promotion to Police Officer. As a forwardthinker, Ndiva continued dreaming and with that, began to envision new goals.

The simple, yet perceptive, advice offered by his father is, "If you have aspirations to advance your career, put yourself in an advantageous position and the pieces will fall into place." Ndiva started by researching the steps others took to achieve success at MPD and found a common denominator — all had, at minimum, a bachelor's degree. His research then turned to the best university to impact his future goals, and he found Marian University. The online criminal justice program was conducive for him as a working adult, and the generous credit transfer process allowed him to graduate in a timely manner. Marian's professors were imperative in molding him academically, professionally, and personally. Ndiva felt influenced in learning from Professor Alan Johnson. Of his time in Professor Johnson's classroom, Ndiva recounts, "His consistent, encouraging and applicable teaching style made the learning process

simplistic and geared towards adult learning. Professor Johnson's life experiences as an executive leader within a metropolitan law enforcement agency strengthened his ability to teach professional-level curriculum with real-world applicability."

After graduation, Ndiva had ambitions to pursue his Master's degree and enrolled in Marian's online master's of Science in Public Safety Management program. Graduating this past December, Ndiva is one of the program's first students and graduates. As he crossed off another achievement on his road map of strategic life goals, Ndiva attributes his success to the sacrifice and support of his wife, and life partner, who shares in his dreams and continues to light their path to greatness; the sage advice of his father; some good old fashioned "luck;" and the grace of God.

#### The Badge and Beyond

Believing in the power of education, Ndiva has added a new title of Adjunct Professor and is teaching the Introduction to Criminal Justice class — at Marian University! He is elated to be bringing the last decade of professional and academic experiences into a familiar classroom setting where he is now educating, leading, and inspiring the passion in others. He is grateful to partner with Marian University, a place where his dreams were converted to reality.

## **MARIAN UNIVERSITY**

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