



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

MARIAN UNIVERSITY

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President's Message

Dear Friends of Marian University,

IMPACT conveys change and provides meaning while generating new insights into life, careers, and relationships. Marian's impact provides an overarching framework for individuals allowing them opportunities, many of which defy long-term prediction, to not only better their life, but the lives of others, locally, regionally, and globally. The influence of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Agnes and the Board of Trustees clearly supports and directs how a Marian education provides sway for students, staff, faculty, and administration. In other words, Marian's impact reverberates and touches others throughout the life cycle.



Marian's high-quality academic programs deliver the knowledge and skills that prepare students to effect change. As Marian's students discover mechanisms to critically think, solve problems, and assess new knowledge, they grow in their abilities to inspire others and build relationships that will positively impact their communities and beyond.

Faculty strengthen their classroom instruction through scholarship and research, incorporating new ideas, and solutions to issues confronting daily life. These impacts power change and leave lasting impressions.

Marian's ability to maintain relevance in today's society cements its future. This Annual Report provides many examples of Marian's impact on a local level and a global scale. Prepare to be inspired by the stories we share.

- **Study Abroad Trip to Japan** impact on students who had never been out of the country
- **Thanatology students'** global reach in serving others
- **Underkofler Award winner**, educating future forensic scientists
- **At Risk and Alternative Education Program** building a new brand of educator
- **Working Families Grant** recipient using her degree to assist others
- **Dr. MLK, Jr. Spirit Award winner** creating a gateway to college for income-limited students

Warmly,

Michelle E. Majewski, Psy.D.
President



SABRES IN JAPAN

A ride on a bullet train at 185 miles per hour, a taste of takoyaki (octopus dumplings), a tour of centuries-old temples and an emotional visit to where the atomic bomb was deployed.

Students and faculty from Marian University had the educational trip of a lifetime, with 11 days in Japan. The short-term study abroad trip, followed two Marian University courses: *Rad to the Bone* (a class on Radiation, taught by Dr. Sarah Garvey) and *Turbulent Struggles for Democracy* (taught by Dr. Michael Garvey). Both Drs. Garvey were on the trip, along with Dean Alan Johnson, assisting as chaperone.

On May 17th, the group boarded a flight from O'Hare International Airport to Tokyo International Airport (Haneda), where they were met by tour guide Yamauchi Yutaka (Yu-San). Informative, personable and kind, Yu-San left a lasting impression on the travelers with his many jokes and sayings.

It was the first time out of the country for most of the 17 students. Throughout the trip, the Sabres were immersed

in Japanese history. Students also tried new foods like takoyaki, udon, tempura, sashimi, eel and more. The Sabres experienced Japanese culture by participating in a traditional Tea Ceremony and activities like a sushi-making class at Tsukiji Fish Market and taisho (radio exercise routine, often completed in groups in public).

"I really enjoyed learning about Japan's history and the cultural aspects you find in so many places," said one student. "I liked being able to try new foods and have new experiences."

While spending several days in Tokyo, a day trip to Mt. Fuji began with a visit to the Fujisan World Heritage Center, then the Fuji Subaru Line 5th Station, where students basked in the majestic beauty of the volcano, and went shopping and horseback riding.

Then it was on to Kyoto via the Nazomi bullet train, where the Sabres visited the Fushimi Inari Shrine, Nijo Castle and Golden Pavilion. While in Kyoto, some students traveled to Nara to feed the deer and visit



AN

A short-term study abroad experience By Sarah Garvey

Todaiji Temple, which contained Japan's largest bronze Buddha, sitting 15 meters tall. Other students explored Kyoto and fed the monkeys at Iwatayama Monkey Park. In the Rad to the Bone course, students learned about when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Now, they stood at the epicenter, in one of the most impactful days of the trip.

With a local guide, students observed the remains of the Atomic Bomb Dome, formerly the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall; stood on the Aioi Bridge (T-Bridge) that overlooked the Motoyasu River where bomb victims sought refuge from the intense heat; and visited the Peace Memorial and Museum. They stopped at the Children's Peace Monument, built to commemorate Sadako Sasaki and thousands of innocent children who died as a result of the bombing. In the Museum, students reflected over hundreds of pictures and stories from that day.

"I thought the time we spent at Hiroshima tied in well with the material we learned in class," related one student. "I learned a lot at the museum. Also, the

different temples and shrines provided valuable learning opportunities about a new culture."

Next, the Sabres traveled to Itsukushima Shrine with the giant torii gate on Miyajima Island in Hiroshima Bay. On the island, the travelers interacted with local deer, visited the shrine, and saw how the giant gate, at high tide, seems to float on the water.

The final two days in Osaka, the travelers visited Osaka Castle and the Great Tumulus of Emperor Nintoku. Then it was time to go home, but not before thanking their tour guide with gifts, including a Marian University shirt. One student summed it up best. "I would totally recommend that other students participate in study abroad courses. This was a trip and experience I will never forget, and I had the absolute time of my life!"

PHOTOS (FROM LEFT): Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine, Hiroshima ruins (top), Mount Fuji (bottom), Dr. Sarah Garvey feeding Miyajima Island deer, Golden Pavilion in Kyoto (top), tour guide Yamauchi Yutaka, Yu-San (bottom), and learning the art of sushi.



Marian's Thanatology Program

Having an Impact Around the World

What does a man who founded the first hospice in Mozambique; a music therapist in Rochester, NY; a Peruvian Linguist studying Amazonian peoples; and a bartender in Sheboygan, WI all have in common?

They are all alumni or current students in Marian's red-hot, Thanatology Program. Thanatology, the study of death, dying, grief and bereavement, draws students from all professions, and from all over the world.

Since Dr. Korie Leigh took over as Program Director and Associate Professor in 2021, there have been significant changes to Marian's Thanatology Program:

- A switch to a 7-week semester, from a 15-week semester, to allow for more flexibility for students with full-time jobs.
- The courses are more contemporary and include topics like Green Burial Practices.
- The program is more practitioner-based, so students gain tools from every class to put into practice.

Dr. Leigh, also a Certified Child Life Specialist and a Grief Counselor with over 18 years of clinical experience, launched her first children's book this spring, *What Does Grief Feel Like?* The book, with brightly colored illustrations, is written for adults who want to support grieving children.

Alumni and Students Making an Impact

Jonathan Heller, from Arizona, and his wife, Layne, founded Casa Ahava, the first hospice in Mozambique. They serve the poorest patients, who travel thousands of

miles to die with dignity. Jonathan earned his Master's in Thanatology from Marian, so he could best serve the needs of their patients. Through Marian, said Heller, "The community of professors and students created an incredibly creative and dynamic learning environment."

Katherine McGrath is a board-certified music therapist in Rochester, NY who decided to pursue Thanatology at Marian after a transformative experience in an internship at a hospice. "My favorite aspect of Marian's program is how applicable and relevant each class is to my professional field and goals, in addition to my personal life," said McGrath.

Dr. Luis Miguel Rojas-Berscia, based in the Netherlands, is a Peruvian linguist and teacher of Chinese as a foreign language. He's working on his Thanatology degree at Marian to have a broader understanding of the mechanisms underlying Indigenous peoples' loss phenomena (language loss, estrangement, transgenerational trauma). "I chose Marian University because I saw the perfect combination of applied and theoretical perspectives on death, dying, bereavement, and loss," said Rojas-Berscia. "The staff members are also thanatologists with a remarkable reputation."

Emma Mock, a Bartender and Beverage Manager in Sheboygan, WI, was drawn to Marian's Thanatology Program, after volunteering at a hospice years ago and developing a desire to work with the aging and the dying in a meaningful and supportive way. "I feel like I am gaining tools, friendships, and resources that will continue to be supportive after I graduate," said Mock.

Forensic Science Professor

Praised for Generosity and Bringing Fun



Diana Johnson pictured with Mark Albert, Senior Key Account Manager at Alliant Energy, who presented the Underkofler Award, along with Kathy Paul, Senior Project Administrator at WAICU (Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.)

Diana Johnson, Program Director of Forensic Science and Associate Professor at Marian University was recognized by the Alliant Energy Foundation with the 2022–23 James Underkofler Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. Mark Albert, Senior Key Account Manager at Alliant Energy presented the award at a special Recognition Dinner for Faculty and Staff at Marian University on April 4th.

Recipients of the Underkofler Award demonstrate outstanding performance and excellence in undergraduate teaching and reflect the college's mission, purpose, and commitment to provide the very best undergraduate education through professional and dedicated teaching.

In her nomination, Johnson was admired by students, who said she excels at bringing fun, human connections to each topic, which leads to increased retention of knowledge in each student's mind. They also said she is exceptionally inviting and invested in seeing students succeed.

Colleagues praised Johnson for being generous with her time for co-curricular events and professional-development activities and said she has a positive influence on all those who fall within the radius of her influence. They also said her caring and commitment to life-long learning and to the Marian and Fond du Lac communities exemplified the University's mission and values.

Johnson has been at Marian University since 2015, preparing students for careers in crime scene investigation and other areas of forensic science. She holds an M.S. in Entomology from Washington State University (Pullman, WA) and a B.S. in Biology from The College of New Jersey (Ewing, NJ). Before moving to Wisconsin, Johnson worked for the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences in the Forensic Serology Section (2003–2011). Her main areas of interest are forensic serology and forensic entomology.



SABRES

IMPACTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

What would Fond du Lac be like without Marian University? Community is a Marian Core Value for a reason. Marian has so many touchpoints with the local Fond du Lac community and beyond, where we are making an impact on the next generation.

Drew Cowden, Senior, and **Payton Fox**, Sophomore, who are both on the Marian Men's Soccer Team, share their skills with the next generation, as volunteer coaches for the Little Kickers soccer team at the Fond du Lac Soccer Association. (Dallas Kreisa, our Student of the Year, on Page 15, has also been a volunteer coach for the Little Kickers.)

Marian's Upward Bound Math and Science program, directed by **Garry Moïse**, (featured on Page 11 as the winner of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Spirit Award) expands the horizons of income-limited high school students to many different learning environments, such as the trip to the Horicon Marsh.

TRIO students at Marian are enriched by the university's relationship to its founders, the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes. TRIO, which serves first generation and income-limited students, visited the CSA Sisters' solar panel field, and were inspired by the technology and care for the environment.

Marian's Nurse Camp for high schoolers is one of the ways that **Marian's Nursing staff** works to address the Nursing shortage in Wisconsin. For a week in the summer, a group of high school students gets hands-on learning in the basics of nursing, including CPR training, job shadowing, and wound care on a mannequin. Students also heard from professionals like an EMS helicopter pilot.

Kenzie Briones, '23, a Social Work major, as part of her field internship with ASTOP, a sexual assault service provider offering treatment, outreach, prevention and advocacy, went into Fond du Lac schools and did presentations on Body Safety. (Kenzie was also a double-sport athlete, who played on the Women's Volleyball and Women's Soccer teams.)

Josephine Parent addressed students at Brandon Elementary for Veteran's Day 2022. Parent, studying Homeland Security and Psychology, drills locally here in Fond du Lac as a military police officer and a Specialist in the Army. Josephine is also vice president of the Student Veteran Organization (SVO).





Educators Transformed by **At Risk Alternative Education Program**

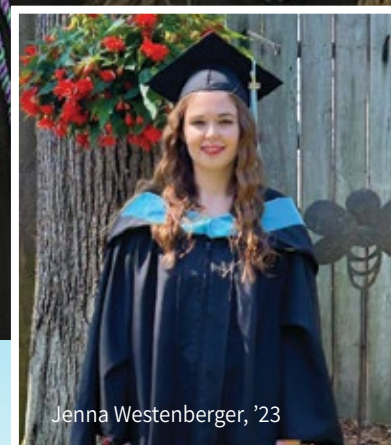
Dr. Anthony Dallmann-Jones once said, “Our graduates could be air-dropped into a room full of at-risk kids at noon and by closing bell, have the place cooking with electrified learners.”

When you meet graduates of Marian University’s Master of Education: At Risk and Alternative Education (ARAE) program, you will believe it.

As director of Marian’s program and a nationally-known expert in ARAE, Dr. Dallmann-Jones is preparing a different kind of educator to go after what he calls the “Shadow Children.” These students include victims of abuse, sex trafficking, or neglect. They are apathetic runaways, pregnant teens, and have defiant disorders, along with erratic attendance issues. “The cases of neglect are the worst,” Dr. Dallmann-Jones says, “because of all the essential life skills these kids are lacking.”

Dr. Dallmann-Jones calls these teachers, “Angel-Warrior Educators,” who will love and guide these students, but also learn to effectively fight for them. Dr. Dallmann-Jones’ goal is to also have at-risk students “lead lives of significance.”

“I think my biggest transformation throughout this program was becoming a much more vocal advocate for students at-risk,” said Jenna Westenberger, ’23, a Seventh Grade English Language Arts Teacher at



Jenna Westenberger, ’23

Random Lake Middle School in Random Lake, WI. “This program provided me with the tools I need to advocate for justice, equity, and empathy for these students.”

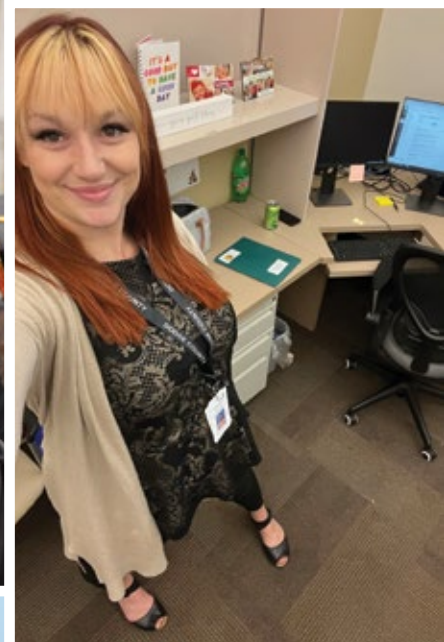
Marian’s ARAE Master students are not just teachers, but also social workers, guidance counselors, corrections educators and other professionals. A benefit of this online program, is the camaraderie with others who are passionate about advocating for at-risk students. Especially in K-12 Education, where turnover is high, Marian’s ARAE students are finding a renewed sense of purpose.

“I was ready to quit. I don’t like admitting that,” said Kathleen Heinrich, a High School Alternative Education Teacher in Sun Prairie, WI. “The single biggest change that I experienced as a result of completing the ARAE Program was that I gained back my passion for teaching, and I honestly believe there is nothing more valuable to me than that.”

Through Marian University, the impact of these educators is a ripple effect of positivity that is resonating with their students. No air-drop needed.

TOP PHOTO: Dr. Anthony Dallmann-Jones with two graduate students, Sara Anderson (left) and Amber Ortega (right).

A Degree Within Reach **FOR SINGLE PARENTS**



“I learned so much in my classes, from my professors, and from professionals in the field that I am able to use in my profession now,” said Aundrea Pearson, a single mother of two, who was a beneficiary of the Working Families Grant.

Pearson, who graduated from Marian in the spring of 2023 with a degree in Social Work, is working as a Social Worker in Adult Protective Services for Dodge County Human Services.

The Working Families Grant, a lifeline to single parents pursuing

a degree, provides assistance with tuition, childcare and household expenses, allowing these students to focus on their education. To encourage positive outcomes, participants must remain enrolled full-time, maintain a 2.5 GPA or higher and work 20 hours of community service each semester.

According to Kerry Strupp, Director of the Working Families Grant Program, 231 students have graduated from the program since its inception in 2002. Earlier this year, SSM Health donated \$50,000 to the program and an anonymous donor gave a one million-dollar grant, to serve students from 2023–27.

WFG BY THE NUMBERS*

86%

WFG graduation rate. This exceeds the national graduation rate of all income levels (64%)!

285

students have participated in WFG since it began in 2002.

231

students have graduated.

1,000

Approximately 1,000 community service hours per year donated in the community.

496

WFG has served more than 496 children.



A significant # of graduates enter helping professions such as nursing, social work, psychology, education, and criminal justice.

*As of August 2022

MLK, Jr. Celebration 2023



Garry Moïse

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Spirit Award

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Spirit Award was bestowed upon Garry Moïse, the Program Director for Upward Bound, Math and Science (UBMS), for years of his service creating a gateway to college for many first generation and income-limited students. A native of Haiti, Moïse, who has worked at Marian University the last 15 years, and for UBMS the past 11 years, invoked Dr. King in his acceptance speech, “The time is right to do what is right.”

Moïse understands these students, because he is a first-generation college student himself. “I do it because of what others have done for me.”



Rodney Bourrage, Sr. and Walt Love

Community Prayer Breakfast

“Are you keeping Dr. King’s dream alive?” challenged Rodney Bourrage, Sr., at Marian’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Prayer Breakfast. Bourrage, the Founder and CEO of Operation DREAM, a Milwaukee-based mentoring program for boys, talked about people who paved his way, including his father, who had a 3rd grade education and his mother, who kept him in church.



Laurice Snyder

MLK Live Reading

A new event was added to Martin Luther King Day — a Live Reading of Dr. King’s iconic, “I Have a Dream” speech. Students, staff and faculty from Marian University, along with members of the Fond du Lac community, each read a few lines from the speech. The youngest reader was Maya Snyder, a 1st grader at Roberts Elementary School.



Sister Edie Crews

Sister Edie Retiring

“Come for dinner and stay for Jesus,” Sister Edie Crews would say. Besides after-Mass dinners at the Campus Ministry house, Marian’s Director of Campus Ministry fed students spiritually, with speakers, service projects and field trips to see the Catholic sites in Wisconsin, like Holy Hill, the Our Lady of Champion Shrine and the Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in La Crosse. She often combined those trips with a visit to a beautiful state park to share her love of nature. Sister Edie also led students on Mission Trips.

Sister Edie retired in June, after seven years as Director of Marian’s Campus Ministry. Sister Edie was originally from Hays Kansas. She first came into contact with the Sisters of St. Agnes, when they were teaching at the Catholic school in Hays.

Celebrating Athletic and Alumni Standouts



Mark Boyle



The 2000-01 Marian Men's Basketball Team



Julia (Skenandore) Ravindran

Hall of Fame Inductees

Mark Boyle served as the head coach for the Marian men's basketball program for 30 years and became the sixth coach to enter the Hall of Fame. Beginning in 1988, Boyle led the Sabres to 390 victories, five conference championships, and two trips to the NCAA Tournament. The Sabres also won five conference tournament championships with the titles in 2001 and 2014, leading to the pair of national tournament appearances. Boyle earned five Coach of the Year awards coming in 1990, 1991, 2001, 2008, and 2014.

The 2000-01 Marian Men's Basketball Team is the first men's basketball team to reach the Hall of Fame and the first team in program history to earn a bid to the NCAA Tournament. Marian opened the LMC Tournament with a 74-72 overtime victory over CUW at home and was able to knock off top-ranked Edgewood in the semifinals in a tight 65-62 victory. Then Marian headed to Lakeland, and defeated the Muskies 67-60 to earn the fourth LMC Tournament Championship in program history and an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Standouts included Eric Meunch, Scott Jaeger, Brian Crowe and Wade Georgeff. Coach Mark Boyle also credited his coaching staff, Grant Monroe and the late Mark Laemmrich.

Julia (Skenandore) Ravindran remains one of the most dominant pitchers in Marian softball history and helped lead Marian to an LMC Championship and a berth into the NCAA Tournament during her career. Ravindran was an LMC All-Conference selection all four seasons of her career. Upon graduation, Ravindran left Marian as the winningest pitcher in program history with 54 victories and had logged the most innings pitched with 656. In 2003, Ravindran led Marian to an LMC Tournament Championship and berth into the NCAA Tournament after earning 15 victories, tied for the fourth-most in a single season in program history.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Aaron Kotarek, '94, a native of Manitowoc, earned his Bachelor of Science in Broad Field Social Studies from Marian. He also played basketball for the Sabres and during his senior season, was voted team captain and selected for the LMC Senior All-Star game. Kotarek went on to become Senior Vice President — Audience & Operations at Oahu Publications, Inc., Hawaii's largest media company. He is a featured speaker at industry summits nationwide. Earlier this year, Kotarek was named one of "North America's Top 25 Media Executives Over the Age of 50" by *Editor & Publisher* magazine. Kotarek traveled all the way from his home in Hawaii to accept the award at the Hall of Fame Banquet.



Alumni Spirit Award

Carey Gardin was born, raised and educated in Scotland, moved to the United States in 1985 and joined the Office of the President at Marian University in 1987. She served 10 presidents and 17 Board Chairs and more recently, coordinated many of the University's special events. During her 35-year career at Marian, Gardin served on or chaired several committees, including five Marian presidential inauguration planning committees, Sabre of the Month selection committee and many more. In addition, Gardin led early-morning aerobic fitness workouts for several athletic teams and ran the university's Aerobics Club for students, faculty, and staff. Gardin officially retired in 2022.

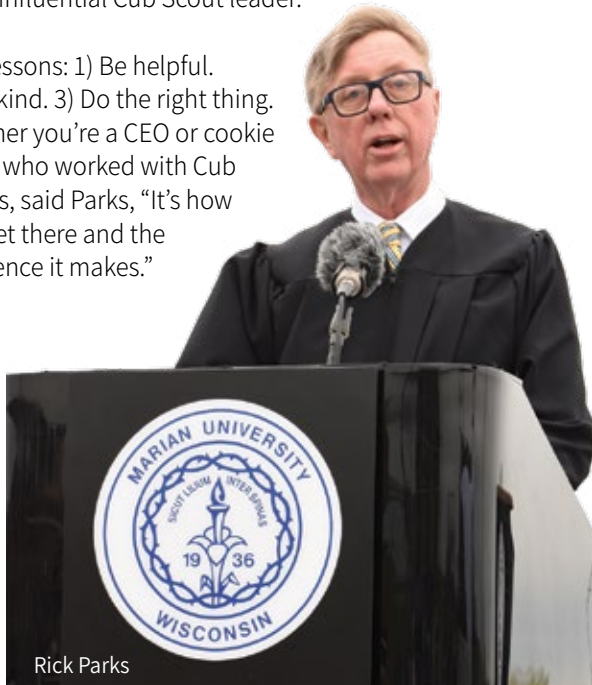


Make a Difference with Three Lessons

Whether you're a CEO, or a cookie baker — you can make a difference, **Rick Parks**, former CEO of Society Insurance, and new Adjunct Professor at Marian, told the 2023 Spring graduates.

Parks revealed how his mother organized a group of ladies to care for an elderly woman who suffered a stroke. He also related how his father, who worked as a foreman in an industrial bakery making animal crackers and died suddenly at age 56 — was remembered by schoolmates as an influential Cub Scout leader.

The lessons: 1) Be helpful. 2) Be kind. 3) Do the right thing. Whether you're a CEO or cookie baker who worked with Cub Scouts, said Parks, "It's how you get there and the difference it makes."



Rick Parks



Sister Sharon Pollnow, '67

You are the Future Unfolding

"Life is not about things, it is about relationships — graced encounters that reflect the goodness of God," said **Sister Sharon Pollnow, '67**, General Superior of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes.

Speaking softly, but conveying deep meaning, she encouraged graduates to trust God. "Believe that you have been brought into existence by a loving design, that has held you in the past, holds you in the present, and can be trusted in the future," she said. "Embrace your unique giftedness and repeatedly reflect on the wisdom you obtain on life's journey."

Sister Sharon also reflected on the CSA sisters' stewardship of the earth, telling graduates, "God has chosen to entrust you and all of us with continuing the creative process on this earth and caring for earth, our common home," repeating a theme throughout her speech, "You are the future unfolding."

Professor Emeriti: Mary Klein

DR. MARY KLEIN DEVELOPED MANY COURSES in Communication, Leadership and Theology in her 34-years of service at Marian University. The recipient of the Underkofler Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award in 2000, she was also recognized in 2010 with the Marian University Academic Advising Excellence Award and in 2015 with the WACADA Faculty Advisor Excellence Award. Dr. Klein developed Marian's Communication Program, launched in 1991, and served as its chair until her retirement in May 2021. Dr. Klein also developed the undergraduate Minor in Leadership and taught in the Doctorate of Leadership program. She was active in Faculty Senate and several times, president. Dr. Klein earned her Doctor of Education, Leadership of the Advancement of Learning and Service from Cardinal Stritch University. She received her Master's of Science, Organizational Behavior and also her Bachelor of Science in Education from the UW-Whitewater. In addition, she has a Master of Arts, Liturgical Theology from Notre Dame.



Dr. Mary Klein



Dr. Brian Olson

Dynamic Leaders Added to Marian

Dr. Brian Olson, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, came to Marian University in June from Herzing University in Milwaukee, where he was Vice-President for Operations. Prior to this, he was President for Alta Colleges in Chicago. Dr. Olson, who gained a reputation as a turnaround expert, earned a Ph.D. in Education from Capella University in Minneapolis. His MBA with Specialization in Finance and Concentrations in Marketing and Statistics is from the University of Chicago and his Bachelor of Science in Life Science, from UW–Parkside.



Kimberly Ross

Kimberly Ross, Business Analyst, joined Marian University in May from Plymouth Utilities and the City of Plymouth, where she was a finance manager. Prior to this, she was at Alliant Energy.

Ms. Ross brings experience as a complex problem solver. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from the University of Minnesota.

The two are collaborating on a Mapping the Student Experience project, where they follow the path of a student through Marian University from first contact through graduation.

Marian's New Market-Driven Majors Attract Top Talent

THIS YEAR, MARIAN LAUNCHED TWO IN-DEMAND MAJORS: Construction Management and Risk Management and Insurance. Both offer higher earning potential, advancement opportunities and numerous career options. For these, Marian has attracted top talent.

Daniel Enz, Program Director and Associate Professor for Construction Management, is an experienced senior engineer, structural engineer, Engineering Officer in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves and consultant. He was previously Program Coordinator for Construction Management at Eastern Kentucky University, and Associate Professor for the UW–Platteville. A Wisconsin native, Enz earned his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University; an M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota; and a B.S. in Civil Engineering UW–Platteville.

Rick Parks, Adjunct Professor for Risk Management and Insurance, recently retired as CEO from Society Insurance. He's a past Chairman of the Wisconsin Insurance Alliance and currently chairs Governor Evers' Property Casualty Insurance Advisory Council. He's a board member of the American Property Casualty Insurers of America and serves on the Workers Compensation Council for the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies. In addition, Parks brings a lifetime of community connections. Growing up in New Washington, Indiana, Parks earned an academic scholarship to Indiana State University, where he received a B.S. in Business Administration.



Daniel Enz



Rick Parks



Craig Peltonen

Coach Peltonen to Retire after 35 Seasons

Craig Peltonen, retiring after 35 seasons of coaching Marian University Men's Soccer, helped guide the Sabres to six Lake Michigan Conference (LMC) Championships, three consecutive appearances to the NCAA Tournament, and 262 total victories. Peltonen was named the LMC/NACC Coach of the Year eight times and was inducted to the Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association (WSCA) Hall of Fame in 2012.

Along with being the winningest coach in the history of the men's soccer program, Peltonen is also the winningest coach for Marian Women's Soccer, which he headed from 1990 to 2006, with the exception of the 1999 season. In addition, Peltonen served for 19 seasons as head coach for the men's tennis program, which in 1999, he helped lead to its only conference championship.

"I've played a small part in helping to shape some lives of students at Marian, but those students and Marian have played a larger role in helping to shape my life," said Peltonen. "I'm retiring, but I'll still be supporting the Sabres and my connection to Marian will always be there."

Student of the Year: Dallas Kreisa

This year's Student of the Year, Dallas Kreisa, was an academic standout, who also donned a Sabre uniform in not one, but two sports. Sarah Garvey, Associate Professor of Chemistry, who nominated Kreisa for Student of the Year, was impressed by how Kreisa reflected Marian's Core Values.

LEARNING: Kreisa, a Biology major with minors in Chemistry and Data Analytics, earned a 4.0 GPA, landed on the President's List every semester and was a member of Marian's Honors Program. In Garvey's Analytical Chemistry class, Kreisa had the top score, although she was a sophomore among upperclassmen. In Athletics, Kreisa was a member of the Women's Soccer Team and Captain of the Women's Lacrosse Team.

SERVICE: Kreisa was a shy and quiet student at first, but then later became more outgoing after she started tutoring other students in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. "Kreisa was not only knowledgeable, but she was generous with her knowledge," said Garvey. She would frequently help fellow students.

SOCIAL JUSTICE:

Whether on campus or on the field, Kreisa strove to provide fairness and equity to all. In her work with various social organizations and also with Athletics, Dr. Garvey said she worked to make all people feel included and welcome.

COMMUNITY: Kreisa was a Volunteer Coach for the Little Kickers Soccer Team in the Fond du Lac Soccer Association; a Volunteer Coach for Plymouth Area Basketball and Volunteer for Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center. Her extracurricular activities included the Science and Math Association, Student Athletic Activities Committee, American Chemical Society, and Circle K.

SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS: Kreisa valued Marian's Catholic Heritage. This was reflected when Kreisa was president of Circle K and spearheaded a Christmas card event where members wrote and delivered Christmas cards.

Kreisa has decided to further her career in the Sciences, by pursuing a Ph.D. in molecular genetics. "I am proud of the person she has become over the past four years and can't wait to see what great things she does in the future," said Dr. Garvey.



Dr. Sarah Garvey and Dallas Kreisa

UNIVERSITY NEWS

in Memoriam



Peter Jerving

Officer Peter Jerving's end of watch came on February 7, 2023 in Milwaukee, when he suffered a fatal gunshot wound while pursuing a suspect. As a student in Marian University's online Criminal Justice Program, Officer Jerving, 37, touched the lives of his professors and fellow students in class discussions. A Memorial Mass was held at Dorcas Chapel for Officer Peter Jerving and Officer Joseph Kurer, a Marian alum who died September 22, 2021, after contracting COVID while on duty.



Johanna Schultz

The University was shaken by the sudden loss of Johanna Schultz, a 20-year-old student from Eldorado, WI, who died as a result of a domestic violence incident on March 11, 2023. Johanna was a student who liked to sit in the front row and contribute to class discussions, according to one professor. A vigil was held in Dorcas Chapel on March 14 for the Health Care Administration and Marketing Major who professors and friends said was bright, ambitious, hard-working and kind.



Rosemary Lloyd

Rosemary Lloyd, of Appleton, WI was a bright spark who came into the Marian family and left us too soon. After a lifetime of stops and starts in her college education, which began at Marian College in the 1950s, the 88-year-old completed the two credits needed for her BS in Interdisciplinary Studies and became the oldest person to graduate from Marian University. When she was too frail to attend Winter Commencement in 2022, Marian University brought commencement to her. Rosemary passed away on May 12, 2023.



Doug Hammonds

Doug Hammonds' career at Marian University began when he took a struggling women's volleyball team and built it into a powerhouse, winning five straight championships from 1997–2001. As Athletic Director, Doug was instrumental in growing Marian Athletics, including adding an NCAA women's hockey program, renovations to Herr–Baker Field and Smith Fields and the construction of the state-of-the-art Lenz Fieldhouse with a turf surface. He was inducted into Marian University's Hall of Fame in 2014. He passed away unexpectedly at his home in Oshkosh on January 24, 2023 at age 57.

Fiscal Year Review July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

(Dollars in thousands)

Summary of Revenues and Expenses*

	2022-23	2021-22
Revenues		
Net tuition and fees	\$ 16,737	\$ 17,655
Auxiliary enterprises	3,155	3,306
Gifts, grants, and bequests	5,848	8,394
Investment return and other	1,519	(1,396)
Total Revenues	\$ 27,259	\$ 27,959
Expenses		
Instruction	\$ 7,219	\$ 6,580
Academic support	2,371	2,614
Student services	7,908	6,767
Institutional support	5,566	5,403
Plant operations	4,480	2,279
Auxiliary enterprises	1,726	2,084
Total Expenses	\$ 29,270	\$ 25,727
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ (2,011)	\$ 2,232

Summary of Financial Position*

	2022-23	2021-22
Total Assets	\$ 55,778	\$ 58,836
Total Liabilities	5,010	6,057
Total Net Assets	\$ 50,768	\$ 52,779

* As of June 30 for the year noted.

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



Donor Listing

July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023

(New Donors in bold)

If we have inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed your name, please accept our sincerest apologies and contact us at 920.923.8727 so we may correct our records.



Alumni & Friends Golf Outing June 2023

Investor Level

\$25,000 and more

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James and Kathleen '64 Simon

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Friends of Marian \$99 and under

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Pups and Pops, August 2022

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Milwaukee Bucks – Steve Novak

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Not Odditorium

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 Paula Castillo
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 Sister Margaret Lorimer, CSA
 Judith Strebe Marchello, SASN '59
 Bill O'Brien
 Catherine O'Loughlin '74
 Patricia Perrizo Redman '64
 Sister Judith Schmidt, CSA, '62
 Johanna Schultz
 Ethan Steward
 Evan Steward
 Sister Deborah Walter, CSA, '71
 Ruth A. Willmington

In Memoriam

Sr. Janet Ahler, CSA, SASN '56/'57,
 d. 3/31/23
 Violet A. Bednarek, SASN '53,
 d. 3/3/23
 John P. Birschbach '00/'02,
 d. 12/6/22
 Cherie J. Boudwin '65, d. 1/3/23
 Ben Christian '02, d. 3/20/23
 Dustin Cole '13, d. 9/13/22
 Timon E. Cooney '90, d. 6/16/23
 Jennifer L. Den Hartigh '98,
 d. 11/20/22
 Nancy Derhammer, CSA, '68,
 d. 9/25/22
 Lance A. Ehrke, d. 4/8/23
 Sr. Grace Ann Feldbruegge, CSA, '64,
 d. 2/18/23

Ruthanne C. Schladweiler Feucht,
 d. 2/8/23
 Sr. Mercedes Geib, CSA, '57,
 d. 3/13/23
 Dolores T. Wietor Goggins,
 SASN '50, d. 1/19/23
 Donna Gottschalk, CSA, '64,
 d. 11/2/22
 Larry F. Gray '00, d. 4/4/23
 Mary Ann Weter Hammes,
 SASN '56, d. 2/16/23
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 Neelima Ingle, d. 4/4/23
 Katharine M. Wells Jankiewicz '74,
 d. 7/8/22
 Anne L. Grota Kiekhofer, SASN '64,
 d. 4/18/23
 Jean M. Kitchin, SASN '61,
 d. 7/15/22
 Jane Koch, SASN '63/66, d. 5/14/23
 Michael A. Kramer '93, d. 12/8/22
 Sr. Rita Kramer, CSA, '66, d. 1/26/23
 Ruth M. Fisher Lauerma '46,
 d. 11/5/22
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 d. 2/13/23
 Rosemary Born Lloyd '22,
 d. 5/12/23
 Patricia A. Leslie Lowther '99,
 d. 8/2/22
 Jeffrey Luegers '82, d. 8/10/22
 Ann M. Klieforth Luker '92,
 d. 7/3/22
 Dorothy L. Kubo Mills '73,
 d. 8/14/22
 Allison M. Weidensee Mueller '90,
 d. 4/27/23

Debbie J. Zastrow Ninfo '02,
 d. 12/20/22
 Catherine L. Yockey O'Loughlin '74,
 d. 1/29/23
 Marlene A. Wagner Potratz,
 d. 5/2/23
 Sr. Jane Remondino, CSA,
 d. 4/2/23
 Arlene J. Rhein '97, d. 5/31/23
 John J. Roehl '96, d. 12/4/22
 Jeannine M. Ross '61, d. 8/24/22
 Kathleen M. Schippers '15,
 d. 10/12/22
 Rachelle L. Schmitt '15, d. 10/24/22
 Germaine C. Schommer '57,
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 Johanna L. Schultz, d. 3/11/23
 Denise M. Radlinger
 Siemers-Babish '93, d. 5/28/23
 Jean B. Kramer Smith, SASN '43,
 d. 3/7/23
 Sandra K. Borgwardt Walker '10,
 d. 2/18/23
 Sr. Colleen Walsh, CSA, '56,
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 Elizabeth A. Kuhlman Waugh '67,
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 Emily A. Wegner '07, d. 10/14/22
 Emily S. Seefeld Weiler '12,
 d. 8/6/22
 Karl J. Ziebert '95, d. 8/1/22



May 2023 Commencement

ALUMNI SUCCESS Brenda Ordonñez '21



A Journalist in the Making at Marian University

Brenda Ordonñez, '21, decided to tag along on a class trip for a class she wasn't even in. The trip was to WFRV-TV, the CBS affiliate in Green Bay. Dr. George Koonce, Senior Vice President of University Relations for Marian University, who was also on the trip, remembered the student, because she brought her resume with her and presented it to the General Manager, Mike Smith.

Two weeks later, Ordonñez got a call. The station didn't offer her an internship. They offered her a paid position as a digital content producer. For two years, Ordonñez gave up her college weekends, to go work at the station from 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. After graduating from Marian University with a Bachelor of Science in Communications and Media Studies, Ordonñez was accepted to the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern.

A first generation college student, whose parents immigrated to this country from Mexico, Ordonñez, who

grew up in Chicago, said her mother fell in love with the campus first. "She saw Dorcas Chapel and it was game over," said Ordonñez. But Ordonñez warmed up to Marian. "When I saw the opportunities that's when I knew it was the place for me."

Earlier this year, Brenda and her classmates at Northwestern were taping weekly episodes for CAN-TV titled, "Chicago This Week." Now, an episode in which Brenda served as a national correspondent covering the migrant crisis at the border, has been nominated for a local Chicago Emmy for the College Student Production Award in Chicago by the Chicago/Midwest Chapter: National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

Most recently, Ordonñez has landed at Fox17, WXIX in Cincinnati as an on-air reporter.

ALUMNI SUCCESS

Reginald “Reggie” Parson ‘13

Buckling Down Led to Law School and the Maine Legislature

The first semester at Marian University for Reginald “Reggie” Parson, ‘13 was not off to a great start. At the end of his first semester freshman year in 2009, he earned a 1.6 GPA. “I was at a crossroads where I either buckle down and improve my academic standing or head back to Chicago with nothing to show for my time in college,” said Parson.

Parson was a first-generation college student and he decided buckle down and work extremely hard. He changed his study habits. He spent more time in the library or in his room to complete his work. “I made school my full-time job while also balancing extracurriculars with internships, work study and serving in the Student Senate,” said Parson. “I sometimes look back on this time and wonder what would have happened if I decided to give up. I am glad I did not!”

Four years later, Parson earned a Bachelor in Homeland Security, with minors in Criminal Justice and Pre-Law and a 3.6 grade point average. He was also his graduating class Commencement speaker.

Parson went on to earn a Master’s in Public Administration from the UW–Oshkosh and then went on to earn his J.D. at the University of Maine School of Law. After law school, he worked for two Speakers of the House in the Maine Legislature as a Senior Legislative Aide and Policy Analyst and later, as a Legislative Aide in the Maine House of Representatives.

“It is not how you start but how you finish,” said Parson. “College is a time for growth (sometimes painful growth) but an opportunity to explore, learn about yourself and chart the path of your career and life.”

Parson just accepted a new position as Assistant to the Commissioner of Labor, Maine Department of Labor, where he is assisting with the implementation of the new Paid Family and Medical Leave legislation.



Reggie Parson in the State House in Augusta, Maine, pressing the bell in the Speakers Office to call members of the House to the House Chamber to start their work.

“

It is not how you start but how you finish. College is a time for growth (sometimes painful growth) but an opportunity to explore, learn about yourself and chart the path of your career and life.

REGINALD “REGGIE” PARSON, ‘13

MARIAN UNIVERSITY

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