

MARIAN UNIVERSITY

Indianapolis

PRESIDENT'S REPORT | 2019-20



Sr. Norma Rocklage, OSF, Ph.D. '60 (1933-2020)

LEGACY OF LOVE

YOU BOLDLY MOVE US FORWARD.

Daily, I am amazed by and grateful for the strength and faithfulness of the Marian University community. With you, we win every single day. Your support over the 2019-20 fiscal year has set us up brilliantly for a decade ahead of continuous improvement, new program implementation, and long-term innovative and creative ventures.



02

Your support drives and inspires Marian's blueprint for the

development of transformational leaders. Learn more about how you've advanced student potential and success, especially in our underrepresented communities. Thanks to you, our numbers are adding up in all the right ways.

06

Your continued investment also advances the legacy

of love, leadership, and service of Sr. Norma Rocklage, OSF, Ph.D. '60, who passed away on June 22, 2020. Read this tribute to her as shared by two of her biggest fans, Steve and Doris Garland '73 Downing, valued and esteemed members of the Marian family.

08

The Marian community is especially strong

because of its many legacy families, like the Haire family. Learn more about their faith and shared love of Marian tailgating. This past year we also established the Family Engagement Advisory Board, a group that will help make sure each student's entire family can call Marian their home.



As you read this 2019-20 report, know that so much more has been possible because of you. The programs and people featured here give witness to all that a community with the right values and faith can accomplish. We go where we are called, and my heart is full as I consider all who are called to participate in Marian's journey through partnership, prayer, and philanthropy. May God bless you and your family with peace and health as we boldly venture forward!

2019-20



10

When we consider the success and impact of our

graduates, we are especially humbled to be a part of their journeys. Learn more about alumnus John Giles '72—what makes him tick and why he continues to support his alma mater. His support of the Helping Hands Fund (p. 16), created this year to meet the needs of those hit the hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic, is just one way Giles continues to give back.

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In addition to the those profiled in this report, we also

continue to show our appreciation to all our donors. Every gift—no matter the size—is important in furthering our goal of service to the world. Faithful donors like you are what will sustain us—and our impact—for decades to come.

14⁺

Our alumni and friends continue to

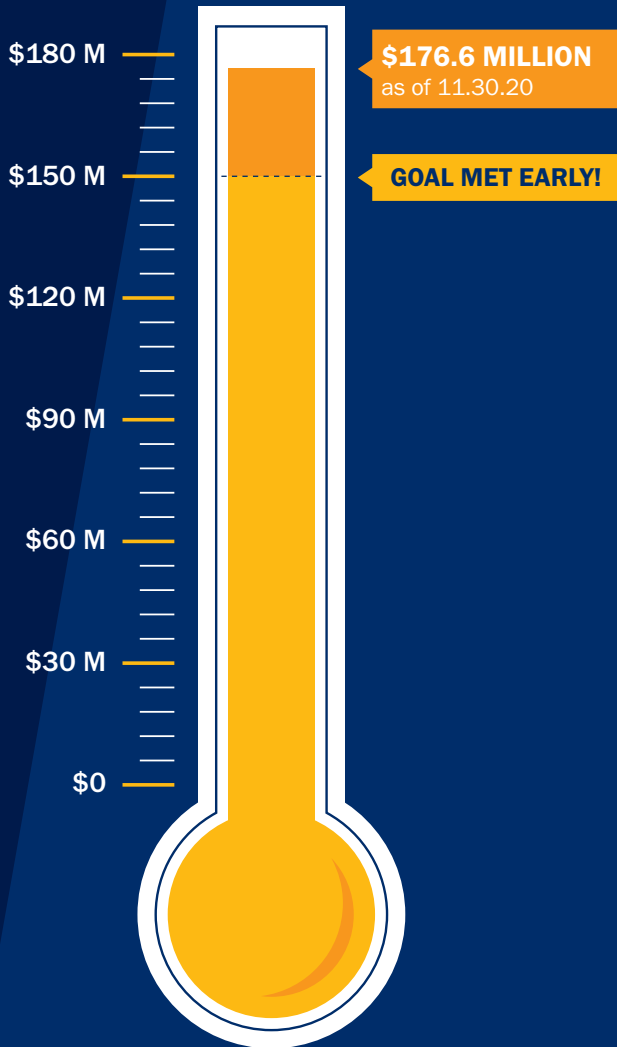
fortify the Marian family through specific donor communities and programs. We introduced the Women of Marian Society (p. 14) and new members include Michelle Werner Meer '81 (p. 15) and Karen Hardin (p. 19), both Marian faculty. We also recognize the success of our license plate program (p. 17) and involved alumnus Scott Young '98 (p. 18). Meanwhile, we continue our long-standing athletics fundraising group, the M-Club (p.20), recognizing member Nancy Morales Krodell '76 (p. 21). These featured donors are just a sampling of thousands—like you—who remain committed to service through Marian University. You'll also learn more about last year's event honorees (p. 16), including the 2020 Snyder-Watt Leadership Award winner, Bill Sherman '65 (p. 17).

Daniel J. Elsener
President



MARIAN UNIVERSITY FORGING LEADERS

the legacy we're made for



2021 Goal \$150 Million



Thanks to generous support from our donors, we met our 2021 goal of \$150 million early.



**OUR NEXT GOAL IS
\$250 MILLION BY 2025.**

YOU BELIEVE IN TRANSFORMATION.

Marian University, consistent with our past, is on a bold mission to educate more people from diverse backgrounds at a higher level in a most efficient and cost-effective way. We will achieve this goal with strict adherence to our five power goals: Mission and Identity, Academic Excellence, Enrollment, Leadership, and Resources.

Your ongoing support will provide our changing world with the transformational leaders it needs more now than ever.



Caito-Wagner Hall

Thanks to a seven-figure lead gift from Phil and Brigitt Caito, construction on a new residence hall began in March of 2020. Caito-Wagner Hall is a 57,000 square foot facility that will house 210 students in 112 rooms when it opens in August 2021. It includes a bell tower dedicated to the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana. This bell tower will become the highest point on campus and will overlook the Saint Joseph Chapel and M. Anne Haire Memorial Prayer Garden. The Caito-Wagner family were honored at the ground-breaking ceremony September 28, 2019.

Caito-Wagner Hall will help meet the need of Marian's growing enrollment. In August of 2020, Marian welcomed its largest freshman class ever. Of the 425 freshmen enrolled in 2020, 34 percent come from underrepresented backgrounds, 19 were international students, and 94 were 21st Century Scholars.



Latin@ Initiative

Manuela Higgins was hired in October of 2019 as Marian's inaugural executive director of Latin@ Leadership. She is responsible for systematically forming strategic community partnerships, creating intercultural engagement, recruiting students, and promoting Latin@ student success.

Marian University's Latin@ Leadership initiative seeks to raise educational achievement among Latinos by infusing schools with transformational mentors; building a network of support; creating a center of faith, life and culture; providing radical access to, and comprehensive support during, higher education; and expanding the resources necessary to accomplishing these ambitious goals.



Unity Center Grand Opening

Marian University celebrated the opening of its Unity Center on February 5, 2020. Beyond a gathering and lounge space open to Marian students, staff, faculty, and community friends, the Unity Center will also host events by the four multicultural student groups: Union for Black Identity, Student Organization of Latinos, the Asian Student Association, and Marian Alliance, an LGBTQ student group.

POWER GOAL ALIGNMENT WITH FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

| MISSION AND IDENTITY | ACADEMIC QUALITY | ENROLLMENT | LEADERSHIP | RESOURCES |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| Latin@ Initiative | Byrum School of Business | 21st Century Scholars | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletics Endowed Positions Facilities/Enhancements Programs Scholarships | Unrestricted Gifts |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarships San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary | College of Arts and Sciences | Ancilla College of Marian University | Walker Center for Applied Ethics | Innovation Fund |
| Sisters' Legacy Fund | E. S. Witchger School of Engineering | Caito-Wagner Hall | | Model Workplace |
| Witness to the Catholic Franciscan Mission and Identity | Fred S. Klipsch Educators College | Helping Hands Fund | | |
| Endowed Faculty/Chair | Leighton School of Nursing | Saint Joseph's College of Marian University - Indianapolis | | |
| | College of Osteopathic Medicine | | | |

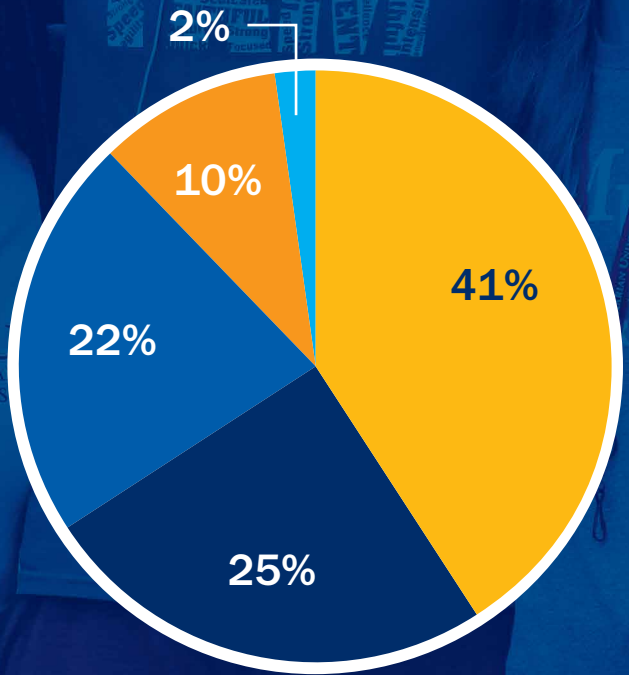
For more information, contact John Finke, vice president for institutional advancement, at jfinke@marian.edu or 317.955.6202.

YOU SUSTAIN US.

\$14,688,958

Amount received by Marian University in gifts, grants, and pledges from alumni, parents, trustees, foundations, corporations, and others from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

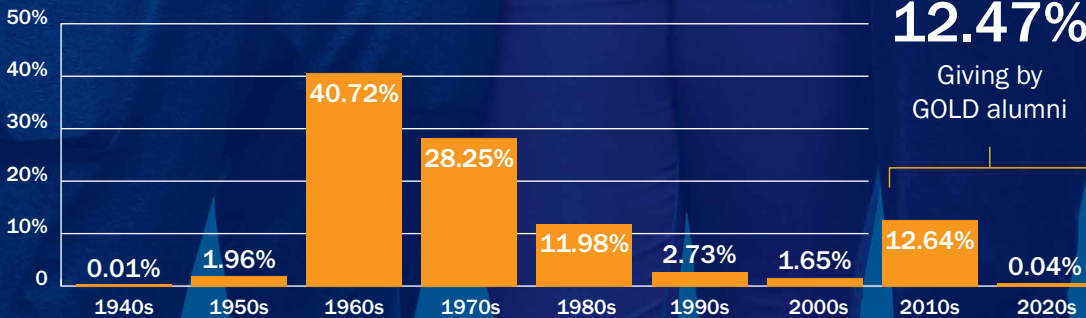
- Friends
- Alumni
- Foundations and Nonprofits
- Current and Past Parents
- Businesses



\$2,905,838

Giving by the Board of Trustees

Giving by Alumni



12.47%

Giving by GOLD alumni



3,081

Number of donors

\$322,007

From 75 gifts matched by employers

MARIAN UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT

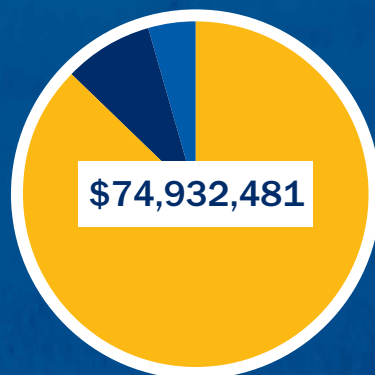
| | at June 30, 2020 |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Value | \$74,932,481 |
| Investment Performance | 2.8% |
| New Contributions | \$ 3,615,309 |
| Endowment Distributions | (\$2,724,820) |

\$94,278,207

Long-term invested funds

ENDOWMENT ALLOCATION 2019-20

- Scholarships
\$65,516,705
- Endowed Chairs and Professorships
\$6,113,962
- Program Support
\$3,301,814



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIR

Denise Brennan Feser '77

President Daniel J. Elsener

Michael Becher, *Chair Emeritus*
 Fernanda Beraldi
 Melody Birmingham-Byrd
 Edward Bonach
 Mary Beth Bonaventura '76
 Earl G. Brinker '74
 Scott Bruns '96
 John T. Cardis '63
 Phil Carson '81
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 Joseph Doyle
 William P. Eckman '74,
Chair Emeritus
 Sr. Christa Franzer, OSF '70
 Fritz French
 Anne M. Frye
 Adairius Gardner '02
 Theaodis "Ted" Gary Jr.
 Sr. Annette Grisley, OSF '74
 Stephen J. Hackman
 David Haire '71
 Jeffrey A. Harrison
 Sr. Margaret Horney, OSF '75
 Jerry Jones
 Fred S. Klipsch
 Sr. Joanita Koors, OSF '77
 Rebecca Kubacki
 Joe Kuzmitz '75
 Alan E. Leighton '62
 Tobin McClamroch
 Sr. Joan Miller, OSF '73
 Jonathan S. Nalli
 Marianne Price, Ph.D.
 John F. Ramsey Sr.
 Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel '70
 Jerry D. Semler
 Rachel Shockley, DO
 Chad Slaughter '96
 Michele Steele '91
 Sr. Bernice Stenger, OSF '77
 Len Strom '68
 Robyn R. Werner
 Ramarao Yeleti, M.D.
 Richard Andrew "Drew" Young
 Scott Young '98
 Raul E. Zavaleta

TRUSTEES EMERITI

Clark H. Byrum
 Robert G. Decraene
 William V. Drew '65
 Bain Farris '72
 John H. Grogan
 Eugene Henn
 S. Michael Hudson
 William Kelsey '61
 James F. Matthews
 Robert H. McKinney
 Charles O'Drobinak
 John A. Purdie
 Joseph L. Smith, Sr. '71
 Jack R. Snyder, *Chair Emeritus*
 D. Anthony "Tony" Watt '69,
Chair Emeritus
 Mary Welch '68
 Mary McNulty Young '47
 Gerald S. Zore '63

as of June 11, 2020



SR. NORMA ROCKLAGE

A LEGACY OF LOVE, LAUGHTER,
AND THE OCCASIONAL LECTURE

A tribute story from devoted fans,
Steve and Doris Garland '73 Downing

**Sr. Norma Rocklage, OSF, Ph.D. '60 was
Marian University's biggest fan.**

That is uncontested. But who were *her* biggest fans?

Well, that is impossible to answer...but, if it were a competition, Steve and Doris Garland '73 Downing would take the prize. They certainly prized her.

"Sr. Norma did so much good for this school. I want to do more for her than just put her pictures in the trophy case," said Steve Downing, Marian University's director of athletics for the past decade.

So far, the couple has found a few ways to honor their dear friend. They've continued setting Sr. Norma's chair in the arena for volleyball and basketball games, at the request of the teams. They contributed to the Sr. Norma Rocklage Endowed Diversity Scholarship. And, they continue to care for Marian's student-athletes—mind, body, and spirit.

Doris Downing, former principal in the MSD of Lawrence Township in Indianapolis and current instructor and supervisor for Marian's graduate education department, regularly helps student-athletes at study tables, a program Steve initiated to set up student-athletes for academic success.

"When I was a student at Marian, the Sisters were always available to help us. Study tables give Steve and me the opportunity to continue that model of support, especially for those who still have a lot to learn about how to manage their time and their freedom," said Doris, who sometimes has to play "good cop" to balance her husband's more demanding style.

KLAGE, OSF, PH.D. '60

He admits he's come a long way in his understanding that not all students are motivated by intimidation. "I have high expectations of their performance in the classroom, and I didn't always feel like I had the time to wrap my arms around them. But my wife helped me with that, and so did Sr. Norma," said Steve. "Once, after Sr. Norma caught me yelling at a student, she was genuinely shocked and said she would pray for me. I knew she wasn't just joking around that day."

But Sr. Norma also knew there was a time for yelling. "She liked to win, too, and could tell when we needed some noise, so she'd go stand in front of the student section to get them fired up," said Steve, who misses the fun, teasing banter they regularly shared.

Doris misses her, too.

“ I loved her so much and am grateful for all she taught us about how to treat each other with dignity and patience. She and all the Sisters have helped make Marian a wonderful place to learn and grow in character, and we all have a responsibility to continue their legacy. I know Sr. Norma is as proud as I am of Steve’s commitment to the success of Marian athletics.”

Doris Garland '73 Downing

“What I feel best about in my 10 years here is that we make a difference in young people’s lives, especially for our young, black males. We have a responsibility to all our recruits to make sure they get their degrees and then send them out in the world to set the example for others,” Steve said.

Clearly a difficult year for all, Steve admits his personal disappointment that the COVID-19 virus interrupted what was on track to be a historically successful year for Marian. “We also lost some athletes who could not afford to come back this fall because their parents have lost their jobs,” he said.

Steve and Doris fondly recall how Sr. Norma would often misplace her tiny purse and how she always joked that there was no money in it. “If there had been, she would have given it away anyway. But by supporting her scholarship, we can help her keep giving to the young people she cared so much about,” said Doris.

In addition to all they do for Marian, Steve and Doris also serve on multiple boards and continue to be recognized in the community for their service and generosity. “We believe that an ability to help is an obligation to help, so that is why we give through time, treasure, and testimony,” they said. “Like Sr. Norma, we love Marian University and there’s no place we’d rather be.”



Above: Steve and Doris Garland '73 Downing celebrate with other dedicated fans in Daytona, Florida, after the national championship win in 2015.

Opposite: Sr. Norma regularly paced the sidelines at Marian University football games.



The Haire Family: Faith and Tailgating

David Haire '71 was president of his freshman class at Marian College, and he must have liked it. Fast-forward 50-plus years, and he's still got a seat at the table as a member of Marian University's Board of Trustees since 2000.

David first proved his flair for leadership with memorable campus events—like a Monte Carlo night, complete with equipment he had shipped from actual Las Vegas casinos. Later, he took on more serious issues—like a takeover of the chapel for a 77-hour bread and water fast in protest of an administrative decision.

He liked to go big and he liked to start things.

He definitely started something big the day he helped coed, Anne Marty, carry her luggage up the stairs into Clare Hall. Married in 1970, David and Anne made sure their six children and 14 grandchildren inherited their strong Catholic faith, intense love for Marian, and, after 2008, obsession with tailgating.

When President Daniel J. Elsener wanted to evaluate the feasibility of bringing football to Marian, he knew exactly where to start. David chaired the task force, got the votes, and began throwing together tailgate parties of epic proportion. The rest is history.

David can't take credit for Marian's winning record, but he can boast a special connection to the current team manager, his granddaughter, Abby Waning '24, who, according to head football coach Mark Henninger, is the team's most valuable recruit.

The rest of the Marian Knights in the Haire family include Jordan Haire '09, Greg '94 and Jen Haire '94 Waning, and Gretchen Waning '24, twin sister to Abby. Each says Marian pushes them to a higher standard.

"Marian professors know you well enough to make sure you reach your full potential. That's how I ended up with a double major in biology and chemistry," said Greg, a consumer goods scientist at Procter & Gamble, who met Jen in honors psychology freshman year.

Greg and Jen eventually became college sweethearts, marrying right after graduation in Marian's Bishop Chartrand Memorial Chapel. Jen, a sociology major, worked in financial services before landing back at Marian University as the regional admissions counselor in 2014. Since then, out-of-state enrollment has increased from five to 20 percent. Jen was also impactful while still a student—speaking at commencement and, even more impressive, winning Mock Rock, the campus lip-sync competition.

Above: The Haire family, including twins and current Marian freshmen, Abby and Gretchen Waning, tailgate proudly beneath their Ohio banner.
Opposite: The entire Haire family cheered on the Knights to a national championship in Rome, Georgia, in 2012.

Meanwhile, Jen's sister, Jordan, took a different path. After time at Clemson University in South Carolina and the University of Dayton in Ohio, she joined Americorps, serving with the Girl Scouts in Fairbanks, Alaska. Jordan chose to finish her psychology degree at Marian—just in time for the inaugural football season—and supported student-athletes as a study table tutor. She rarely missed a family tailgate, even while in graduate school in Kentucky.

“The personalized attention at Marian helped me try things I might not have. Today, Marian's core Franciscan sponsorship values still guide my approach to being present with people in their pain,” said Jordan, who is a licensed mental health counselor at her own private practice and resides with her husband, Adam Lovik, a tribal police officer, in Sequim, Washington.

No matter where the Haire family members are, their shared Marian experiences and values help keep them connected and grounded. In retirement, David travels at whim in his cozy recreational vehicle but continues to be generous to his alma mater through time, talent, and treasure. While legendary for his tailgating talents, David also leads Marian's Mission and Identity Committee.

“We need to stay true to the identity that has helped us grow in enrollment and in dollars raised. The recently renovated St. Francis Colonnade, the new St. Francis Bell Tower, and *The Saint John's Bible* are all examples of us literally advertising that we are Catholic and Franciscan,” said David, who is thankful that Abby and Gretchen are continuing to grow their faith through the San Damiano Scholars for Church Leadership Program.

It's no surprise that Abby and Gretchen feel at home at Marian. “Sr. Norma Rocklage, OSF, Ph.D. '60 was praying for them before they were even born,” Jen said.



Next year, when the new Caito-Wagner Hall is completed, Abby and Gretchen will also be reminded of their grandmother, Anne Marty Haire '72, every time they walk by the new M. Anne Haire Memorial Prayer Garden. “She loved this place so much. I think it's awesome to have mom's presence right in the heart of campus,” Jen said.

In the Fall of 2018, David and Anne were honored with the Dillon Family Distinguished Alumni Award, their love for Marian—and for each other—evident in the award tribute video at Marian's annual gala. Anne passed away a year later. But the garden in her name will inspire prayers for years to come.

“We've stayed connected and involved with Marian even when we lived far away, but the effort has been worth the impact on my family and strengthened our bond across generations,” said David.

Through their service, faithfulness, and awesome tailgate parties, this legacy family's impact on Marian is one to celebrate (parking lot optional).



At Marian University, we know that parents, siblings, guardians, and other family members are essential to student success and development. The extended family also contributes to the vibrancy of our campus. From special resources and communications to activities and events, we strive to inform, engage, and serve our families.

We are proud to announce the establishment of the Family Engagement Advisory Board and would like to thank current members:

- Adedayo Adeniyi
- Joe '91 and Susan Hill '90 Barrett
- Shele French
- Angela Gernhardt
- Kari Guymon
- Mark and Cheryl McSweeney
- Michael and Mary Scheidler

Go to marian.edu/families to subscribe to our e-newsletter, The Check-in, meet our campus family engagement team, and learn about additional resources, event updates, and volunteer opportunities.

“I’m proud of Marian for all the good they do
in the community and how they continue
to tackle transformative programs.”



John Giles '72

Marian College was kind to John Giles '72.

They let him transfer credits from an unaccredited school in Kentucky. And, they let him play basketball.

It's not as bad as it sounds. That school was St. Mary's College, a Catholic seminary. "I was going to be a priest and save the world, but after a year and a half of being cloistered behind the wall and praying all the time, and a summer as a lifeguard at Longacre Pool in Indianapolis, where the girls could not resist teasing a seminarian, I became officially distracted from the call to religious life," Giles said.

But while the first-rate education from St. Mary's prepared Giles for success academically, the financial piece proved more challenging. In 1957, Giles' family immigrated to the United States from Coventry, England, when he was eight years old. "My dad was a janitor and my mom was a warehouse worker, and I worked three or four part-time jobs at a time. When I asked the Sisters for a monthly payment schedule, they once again proved their kindness and flexibility," he said.

But Marian professors really set Giles on track for a successful future with their personal attention and expectation of personal accountability. "Marian was a nurturing but demanding partner, which was exactly what I needed in my post-seminary rebel phase," he said. "They invested in me, and now I invest in others."

It turns out Giles did not have to become a priest to answer some prayers—he has found another path to saving the world, one company at a time. "I like to find underperforming assets that are poorly managed or under-capitalized and fix them up by bringing in my team to provide the direction that will lead that company back to success," said Giles, who is currently playing that leadership role in Jeffersonville, Indiana, as chairman of American Commercial Barge Line, one of the largest marine transportation companies in the United States.

"It's fun for me to take on a challenge, dig in, discover the problems, and determine the best path to success, so the jobs that so many people are counting on can be preserved," he said.

Giles has remained focused on the transportation industry after stumbling into a summer job as a locomotive engineer in 1969. He has always loved trains but is clearly in it more for the people. "I really appreciate the opportunity to motivate, educate, and mentor the employees and then watch them turn things around. It's remarkable to get paid for this," Giles said.

Remarkable is also the word he uses to describe the progress of Marian University.

“The growth is amazing and the facilities are stunning. I don't have to see the financials to recognize that Marian has figured out how to build a sustainable institution. And that's not easy to do today.”

Just as Giles likes to transform a struggling business, he is drawn to the programs at Marian that provide opportunity and support to those facing adversity. Giles has generously supported Marian's earn and learn two-year college, Saint Joseph's College of Marian University, and, most recently, the Helping Hands Fund, which has been particularly important for students facing financial challenges caused by COVID-19.

"I'm proud of Marian for all the good they do in the community and how they continue to tackle transformative programs," he said.

Giles hopes today's students recognize that with the right amount of nurturing and development, there's no limit to what they can achieve. Though he admits all the nurturing in the world couldn't help him jump higher, run faster, or shoot better on that basketball court, he still appreciated the opportunity to play for a little while.

Giles is grateful to Marian for his professional success and enjoys traveling and hiking with his wife, Brooks. He has also picked up a new game—tennis, which he plays as much as he wants.

Honor Roll of Donors

Marian University extends its deepest gratitude to the many alumni, parents, and friends who made gifts, pledge payments, gifts-in-kind, and deferred gifts to the university between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

> Marian Society

> **President's Circle** – \$100,000+

> **Franciscan Circle** – \$50,000-\$99,999

> **Leadership Circle** – \$25,000-\$49,999

> **Knights Circle** – \$10,000-\$24,999

> **Oldenburg Circle** – \$5,000-\$9,999

> **Fioretti Circle** – \$1,000-\$4,999

> **Blue and Gold Society** – \$1-\$999

> Heritage of St. Francis Society

Recognizes individuals who have made deferred gifts.

> 1851 Society

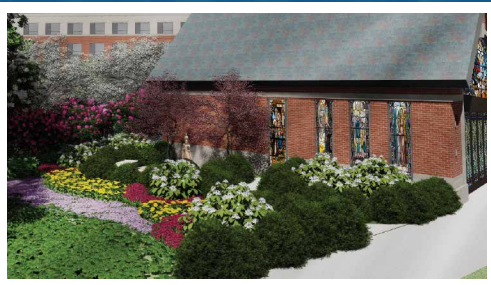
Recognizes individuals and businesses who have contributed significantly through cumulative lifetime giving of \$100,000 or more (excluding pledges and bequests).



Marie Annette “Anne” Marty Haire ’72 (1950-2019)

David Haire ’72 and his family are delighted to have Anne’s memory live on through the beautiful prayer garden, which will be adjacent to the new Caito-Wagner Hall.

M. Anne Haire Memorial Prayer Garden



GIFTS IN HONOR

Joe Bateson '18
 Michael Becher
 Mike Bigelow
 Karen McNulty Candlish '12
 Tamika Catchings
 Sr. Jean Marie Cleveland, OSF '64
 Albert Dannenbrink
 Scott Davison
 Fr. Joe Moriarty
 Allison Goetz '15
 Rebecca Goetz Goodwin '08
 John Griffin

Mary Grubb
 Ellen Hayhurst '23
 Indianapolis Indians Baseball
 Fred Klipsch
 Christopher LaMothe
 Deborah Lawrence
 Alan Leighton '62
 Katie Marlowe
 Michael Messaglia
 Patricia and Bernard Heim
 John Purdie
 Theresa Roberts '15

Sr. Norma Rocklage, OSF '60*
 The Seminarians of
 Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary
 Spencer Severence
 John Shelton
 Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana
 Jack Snyder
 Kaitlin Stallings '13
 Robert Sullivan
 Mary Young '18
 Sr. Monica Zore, OSF '70

GIFTS IN MEMORY

Donald Beckerich
 William Brady '60
 Holly Bruns '78
 Patricia Bryant '68
 Edda Comardo '53
 Ann Martine Boehnlein Clyne '71
 William Curran
 Louise Diver '59
 Gretchen Siedling Donahue '64
 Patricia Doerger '55
 Dorothy Schulz Engelhart
 Wanda Finke
 Margaret McCarthy Fleetwood '73

James Frische
 Ellen Frommeyer '90
 Margene Schuck Goffinet '58
 Anne Marty Haire '72
 Patricia Harper '50
 William Haygood
 Michael Horton
 Mary Ann Busemeyer Huntington '57
 Rosemary Jones '48
 Sue Leighton
 Jodi Yonts MacDonald '92
 Robert McNamara
 Rev. Thomas Murphy

Kate Osborn
 Sr. Stella Marie Paetz, OSF '63
 Roy Pille
 Sr. Norma Rocklage, OSF, Ph.D. '60
 Yvonne Sor
 Sr. Mary Rose Stockton, OSF '43
 Eleanor Thompson '47
 Kathleen McCarthy Turk '65
 Mary Mellen Wathen '44
 Dorothea Zore
 Victor Zore

YOU STAND BY STRONG WOMEN.



The Women of Marian Society, in its inaugural year, serves to honor Marian University's foundresses, the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana, and founding as a women's college. Its mission is to celebrate the contributions of women in Marian's history and expand opportunities for women at Marian for generations to come. The society seeks to honor, extend, and advance the legacy of Marian's women graduates, as well as provide opportunities for women to grow as leaders at Marian and in their community.

The name "Women of Marian" was originally coined for graduates of Marian College when it served as a women's college from 1937-54. Annual gatherings of the Women of Marian happened throughout the years and evolved into an annual luncheon held on campus. Beginning in 2010, an official Women of Marian luncheon began on campus and invitations were extended to various women stakeholders. This luncheon has been held annually under various names, but all focused on serving to bring women of Marian together.

Giving circles within the Women of Marian Society honor the pioneers of Marian's past. We are pleased to recognize the charter members of the Women of Marian Society and invite you—or a special woman in your life—to add your name to this list as a founding member in our inaugural year of 2020-21:

WOMEN OF MARIAN SOCIETY

CLARE CIRCLE

\$1,000 or more annually

Bea Becher
Annette Brinker
Marilyn Strasburger Brouillette '57
Stephanie Brouwer
Tina Luzer Burks '90
Karen McNulty Candlish '12
Phyllis Cardis
Marsha Casey
Patti Paquin Cavanaugh '76
Elizabeth Coit
Patti Curran
Yvonne Stanifer Daniel '85
Kay Urbancic DeHart '68
Brenda Fancher Dorsey
Beth Elsener
Wendy Faust
Denise Brennan Feser '77
Laura Tebbe Finke '04
Anne Frye
Dorothy Gomez
Mary Ann Grogan
Kathy Harbor '75
Karen McGinnis Hardin
Helene Herber Henn '53
Bernie Hopp
Karen Hudson
Kristie Johnson
Amy Koch
Rebecca Kubacki
Deborah Lawrence

Colleen Lawson
Linda Matthews
Colleen Murphy '80
Pat O'Drobinak
Dean Haklin Padgett '75
Holly Hammond Pels '09
Janeann Pitz
Jennifer Plumlee
Marianne Price
Ruth Rodgers
Rachel Shockley
Mary Ehringer Sifferlen '61
Maribeth Smith
Jennifer Snyder
Michelle Study-Campbell '97
Elizabeth Wathen '80
Patricia Baumer Watko '75
Carole Kunkel Watt '65
Mary Leahy Welch '68
Amanda Wright
Mary McNulty Young '47

DILLHOFF CIRCLE

\$500-\$999 ANNUALLY

Allison Badgero
Shirley Martin Daley '61
Carol Wethington Divine '73

Funds secured through membership in the Women of Marian Society will be distributed through scholarships for Marian University female students with criteria for the awards approved annually by members of the society. For more information about joining the Women of Marian Society, visit marian.edu/womenofmarian or email abadgero@marian.edu.

Sharon Sweeney Lenius '62
Michelle Werner Meer '81
Janelle Koenig Mueller '06
Mary Colleen O'Connor '10
Paula Fey O'Connor '77
Theresa Phillips
Laura Jo Biltz Tebbe '71
LaTonya Turner
Julie Mathias Van Liew '87
Jennifer Haire Waning '94
Robyn Werner

HACKELMEIER CIRCLE

\$250-\$499 ANNUALLY

Judith Weingartner Haynes '71
Jackie Kretz
Ginny Mosele O'Brien '67
Jessica Miller Plew '06
Maribeth Taylor Ransel '65
Alice Shelton
Cathy Watt Siler '86
Michele Macielak Steele '91
Carolyn Swartz '18
Kayla Karch Wilder '14

Membership as of February 1, 2021

Michelle Werner Meer '81

There are certain facts Michelle Werner Meer, MSW '81, always knew about herself—the strength of her deep faith, her desire to be in a helping profession, and that her parents were very proud of this first-generation college graduate. But it was 20 years after college graduation that she finally found her people.

Meer had been working at a long-term care facility when she became interested in helping residents and their families navigate the difficult transitions that accompany aging. She then landed at an adoption agency counseling young birth mothers, working her way up to executive director. It soon became obvious that a master's degree in social work would be necessary for her to pursue this career path.

"I remember how excited I felt in my first social work class to realize everyone in the room was speaking my language. When the instructor shared the six values of social work, it just clicked. The social work values perfectly align with the Franciscan values that had been taught to me by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana," Meer said. "I knew I had found my people and my calling."

From Batesville, Indiana, Meer attended high school at what is now Oldenburg Academy. She almost joined the convent, but her parents encouraged college first. She also happened to meet Chuck, her current husband of 41 years, on the day she graduated from high school. Naturally, she chose then Marian College, where her love for both Chuck and the core Franciscan sponsorship values deepened.

Those values have served Meer well throughout her career, which included a few years as executive director for St. Elizabeth/Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Center. "In my first year there, in 2004, a tornado damaged the building which housed teen mothers and their newborns. It was Marian University that came to the rescue by allowing us to use Clare Hall. The entire Marian staff just wrapped their arms around these young women and their babies that summer," Meer said.

Meer eventually moved on to the University of Indianapolis, where she advanced their social work program, but when she saw the open position for a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program director at Marian, she knew she had to apply.

When asked to prepare a teaching sample, Meer didn't have to be told to include Franciscan values. "I had no idea at the time that Marian faculty are evaluated on how the core Franciscan

sponsorship values are infused into their curriculum, but those four wonderful Franciscan values just wove so perfectly into my lesson that it was natural to end the class with them," Meer said.

Now, in her third year as associate professor of social work and BSW program director at Marian, Meer makes sure her students understand that it is their values that will make them transformational leaders. "These values are with you when you are working in communities, and corporations, and hospitals. They're part of who you are, how you practice, how you present in a board meeting, or how you help a client," she said.



"What a wonderful thing to be able to come back home and start a program that has a foundation so identical to our Franciscan sponsorship values," said Meer, who also supports Marian through the Women of Marian Society. "This is just another way to honor our wonderful women founders and to appreciate the solidarity we share as women of Marian."

Meer took this solidarity even further this fall when she became an Associate of the Sisters of St. Francis. "This program called to me. This is who I am. I have loved and lived these values my entire life, so it feels really good to formally acknowledge that I am a wife, a mother, and a Franciscan."

Meer is grateful to have been called back home to Marian. "I am humbled and honored to be here and it may sound sappy, but it's the truth and it's from my heart," she said.

HELPING HANDS FUND

\$1,217,540

AMOUNT DONATED IN 226 TOTAL GIFTS

250

Total donors—12 people gave more than one gift

32

First-time donors

As of September 30, 2020

Marian University Alumni **169**

Board of Trustees or Board of Visitors Members **14**

Sisters **11**

Faculty and Staff **10**

Current or Past Parents **6**



Female



Male



Organizations

Marian University Event Honorees

While the 2019-20 event season was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, nothing could stop us from recognizing our esteemed event honorees.

Clayton Family Circle of Honor Induction Dinner

At the Clayton Family Circle of Honor celebration, held virtually on April 23, 2020, we recognized Tamika Catchings of the Indiana Fever and Randy Lewandowski and the Indianapolis Indians. Find more information and view the recorded program at marian.edu/clayton.



Thrive Gala

At the Thrive Gala on October 25, 2019, we celebrated the following servant-leaders: Mike Alley, John A. Purdie Innovator and Mentor of the Year Award; Christopher La Mothe, Franciscan Values Award; and the Huntington Family, Dillon Family Distinguished Alumni Award. Learn more about these honorees at marian.edu/gala (2019).



LICENSE PLATE FUN FACTS

\$268,000+

RAISED FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH THE LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM
SINCE ITS START IN 2003

2,110

People have purchased at least one Marian University license plate since the beginning of the program

1,228

People drove with pride by putting a Marian University license plate on their car in 2019



55%

of those people were Marian alumni



For more information and to get your own Marian University license plate, visit marian.edu/LicensePlate.

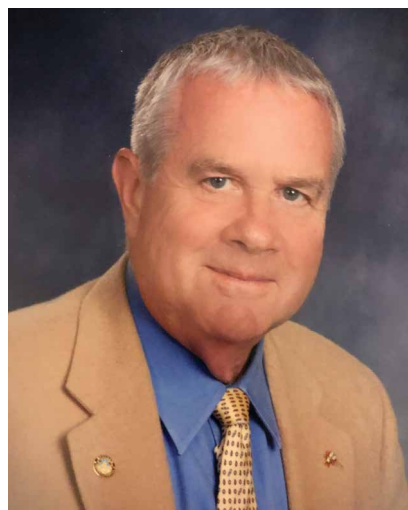
2020 SNYDER-WATT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Bill Sherman '65

As the first of 10 children and first-born son in his Irish Catholic family, Bill Sherman '65 was supposed to become a priest. That turned out to not be his calling, but he remained committed to this faith and still managed to set an appropriate example for his nine siblings. In fact, many of them followed in his footsteps at Marian University.

A double major in biology and chemistry, Sherman began working nights at Eli Lilly and Company as a technician. After graduation, he quickly worked his way up into analytical chemistry, physical chemistry research, and then quality control and environmental science.

Sherman has held multiple volunteer leadership positions, including Grand Knight for Knights of Columbus Council 3660 and Faithful Navigator for the Bishop Chatard Assembly 254, where he is currently Commander of the 4th Degree Color Guard and has led opening flag ceremonies at all the Marian University home football games, rain or shine.



Find Sherman's full profile at marian.edu/newsroom.

The Snyder-Watt Leadership Award was created out of respect for the Herculean efforts that Jack R. Snyder and D. Anthony "Tony" Watt '69, both Marian University Board of Trustees Emeriti, generously invested in the Marian community.

Scott Young '98

Scott Young '98 purchased his first Marian University license plate on a whim, but he's come to appreciate the decision on a much deeper level.

"I like that people know I am connected to Marian. I'm making a donation and connecting to alumni, and it's a marketing piece, too," Young said.

According to Young, the license plate program is just one of many reasons to be proud of and excited about Marian University. Young was appointed to Marian's Board of Trustees this year.

"I'm at a point in my life where I want to be giving back. And after a year on the alumni engagement task force, it became obvious that this is exactly where I need to be," said Young, who is amazed at all that is taking place at Marian.

He is especially excited about the new E. S. Witchger School of Engineering. As president of George E. Booth Company (GEBCO), a family-owned distributor of process instrumentation products, Young hires a lot of engineers and says the next generation of good engineers is hard to find. "I love the idea of an engineering school at a liberal arts school. Ten to 20 years from now, it will be Marian engineering graduates in the leadership positions," Young said.



At 44, Young is proud of where he has landed. He came to Marian to play soccer, majored in business, and got an internship his senior year with Sherwin Williams that started him on a great career path. At one point one of the youngest managers in the country, he then had the opportunity to specialize in industrial protective coatings, which provided advanced technical and sales training, and more opportunity.

Young's technical, sales, and big business experience got him hired as director of sales and marketing at GEBCO in 2014. As the first non-family president, he sees a lot of parallels between leadership of a small, private business and a small, private university.

"We both can make decisions and move quickly, wear a lot of hats, and trust in the people working for you," said Young, who says his crowning achievement has been earning the trust of the Booth family.

But some might argue an earlier accomplishment might top that. During Young's senior year at Marian, he joined the Indiana Pacers Power Pack Team, high-energy dunkers who spring off trampolines to entertain fans at halftime. Not everyone can perform acrobatics while holding a basketball. Young was on the team for six years and says it was intimidating but fun to entertain a crowd of 20,000.

He had a positive impact on those fans, and now he can do the same for current and future students of Marian University.

“Being an involved alumnus allows me to be part of something bigger, but the benefit is all mine,” Young said. **“It’s funny how good it is for the soul to give back.”**

Karen Hardin



2020 has been a year of flashbacks for Karen McGinnis Hardin, DNP, RN, NE-BC, CNE, assistant dean of undergraduate programs and assistant professor for Marian University's Leighton School of Nursing.

Starting with her mother's polio diagnosis—just one year before that vaccine—viruses seem to have followed her. In 1980, Hardin moved to New York City to explore theater, museums, and literary events and landed on the frontlines of the yet to be diagnosed HIV-AIDS epidemic.

"The hospital I worked at opened a designated AIDS unit, and I immediately applied because this was the biggest epidemic in my lifetime. I wanted to be a part of it, and I wanted to take care of these patients that so many were afraid to be near," said Hardin. "The interdisciplinary practice of physicians, social workers, chaplains, physical therapists, and nurses met weekly to determine how to best care for these frail and frightened people."

"We often ended up taking care of the entire family because they were just so devastated. It was the most difficult time of my professional career—but also the most rewarding," said Hardin, who received the *Wholeness of Life Award* from The New York Hospital Chaplaincy in 1993.

Hardin had originally planned to be a teacher like her mother but had switched to nursing after working as a nurse aide at the Indiana Masonic Home in Franklin, Indiana, the summer before college. But an opportunity at Marian College, in 1996, brought her back home to her parents and back to teaching.

Inspired by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana, Hardin is most proud of two courses she developed: *Spirituality in Healthcare* and *Foundation of Faith Community Nursing*. Hardin is also honored to represent the Leighton School of Nursing on the Indiana NEEDS (Nursing Education, Engagement, and Diversity Statewide) Initiative in which the goal is to increase diversity in the nursing workforce.

Hardin has appreciated teaching at a faith-based institution and believes Marian's four core sponsorship values further develop the compassion and empathy of its graduates. "Everyone wants our nurses, and that's exciting as our program continues to grow outside Indianapolis," Hardin said.

After 25 years at Marian, Hardin will retire in August of 2021, but her legacy will continue in the form of the Dr. Marian Pettengill Endowed Nursing Scholarship and the Mary K. Lynn Hardin Endowed Faculty Scholarly Foundation she initiated with her late husband, Daniel, as well as through her membership in Marian's new Women of Marian Society.

“Think of all the good we can do if everyone gives just a little. I have taken advantage of Marian's automatic payroll deduction option. It is so easy and the dollars add up to help sustain the mission of Marian University and the Sisters' legacy of faith and service.”

In retirement, Hardin plans to enjoy her leisure time visiting independent bookstores to add to her personal library and is also interested in bringing the No One Dies Alone program to Johnson County, where she resides. She also continues her support for and love of the nursing profession by serving in the Nursing Honor Guard, which performs a Florence Nightingale tribute at the funeral services of nurses.

YOU ARM A KNIGHT.

The M-Club at Marian University is made up of the most passionate Knight fans supporting student-athletes both on and off the field. Members join at various levels to support student-athletes through scholarships and enriched facilities, while receiving exceptional athletic experiences. The M-Club hosts game day fun including tailgating, hospitality, and season tickets to add to the spirited campus atmosphere and cheer on the Knights! For more information about the M-Club, visit marian.edu/mclub.



2019-20 M-CLUB MEMBERS

LEGENDS

Alan Leighton '62

CHAMPIONS

Mark '84 and Lola Amberger '85 Paras

VARSITY

Tom and Julie '16 Hosty
Dave '74 and Lynn Jongleux
Donald and Jo Ann Sefcik

KNIGHT NATION

Jason '97 and Angela East '98 Crace
Sarah Croner
John and Laura Tebbe '04 Finke
Jamie Fryar
Steve and Kari Guymon
Jack and Carolyn Keller
Deborah Lawrence
Jamie '98 and Wendy Mehringer
Jay Oglesby
Tammy Pressler
Mary Rihm Riggle '80
Jerry and Rosie Semler
Tom '75 and Jacqueline Stiller '75 Sluss
Rick Staples
Brian '95 and Robin Sweany
Donald and Jeannine Toon
Alex and Tamera Welp '98 Vandegriff
D. Anthony '69 and Carole Kunkel '65 Watt
Denny and Natalia Williamson

CAPTAINS

Maria Hooton Armbrrecht '76
David Haire '71

FAITHFUL

Ken and Jenni Alexander
James and Susan Ashton
Paul and Jen Bennett
Lynn Bereman
Hilary Books
Samuel and Brenda Born
David and Tracee Boyles
Kenith and Jessica Britt
John Buening
Taylor Collins-Cardis '19
Craig and Christi Crosser
John '88 and Sherry Dietzen
Bill and Angela Dillon
Dillon Dittmore '17
Angela Edmonds
Anthony Egan
Janet Everett
Thomas Fean
Anne Floccari
Paula Fox
Barbara Frain
Robert and Laura Francisco
Gregory and Kathy Ginder
Nathan Gott '01
Todd Griffith
Cameron Gruell '17
Jennifer Gruver
Jeffery and Kimmie Hamilton
Joseph Hankins
DJ and Kristy Heinrichs
Patrick '74 and Sherrie Hennessy
August '14 and Katie Groves '14 Hibner
Tony Jackson
Andy Keller
Kevin '80 and Janice Gossett '79 Klaiber
Hollie Kostbade
Dan and Nancy Morales '76 Krodell
Jerome '74 and Cheree Leugers
Virginia Lotz
Anthony Merkel '84
Roger Meyer
Patrick '11 and Karli Shepherd '10 Midla
Joe and Marla Milazzo

Rob and Heather Miles
Steven '74 and Dean Haklin '75 Padgett
John '74 and Edie Purcell
Joanne Gonzalez Quinn '80
Janna Rich
Jeff Rieser
Jacquelyn Rieser
Robyn Robinson
Ruth Rodgers
Michael '92 and Mary Scheidler
Thomas Shelton
BeauClair Shields '17
Nicole Slaton
Mike '84 and Karen Staton
Steve Steele
John Stelle
Dave and Michelle Strbjak
Chad Sutton
James and Tina Tonte
Robert and Sheila Toon
Bobby Trexler
Jeff and Beth West
Dennis Williams

FANDOM

Mark Fischer '76
Albert and Kristin Ronzone '68 Froehlke
Ethan and Mary Hemer
Rudy '61 and Barbara Franz '64 Jansen
Robert and Marilyn Metzger
Richard Moore
Bill Murphy '60

KNIGHTRO'S KIDS CLUB

Faust Family
Finke Family
Gates Family
Johnson Family
Kerr Family
Williams Family

Nancy Morales Krodel '76

Nancy Morales Krodel '76 first learned the powerful impact of alumni while on a field trip with Sr. Mary Rose Stockton, OSF '43. Krodel, and several other students, were able to travel to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with their favorite chemistry professor because of the generosity of a Marian College alumnus who hosted the group for several days in his home.

"I was not surprised that a former student had stayed in touch with Sr. Mary Rose, because everyone loved her. But I was surprised that this alumnus cared enough to help provide this amazing experience for current Marian students," Krodel said.

Krodel, who had attended a large high school in Northwest Indiana, was attracted to the small size and location of Marian College. Then an academic scholarship sealed the deal. And, in many ways, Marian sealed her future.

Her profile was included in a graduate diversity booklet that Marian sent out to local companies, like Indiana Bell—where she worked for the next 25 years and met her husband of 36 years, Dan, a graduate of Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana.

As fate would have it, the couple can now pool their alumni power. They've established an endowed scholarship in her brother's name and have now begun one in the name of both of their parents.

"Endowed scholarships are a great way to honor loved ones and show our appreciation for Catholic education," Krodel said.

Krodel is proud of the work she did for Indiana Bell, especially a Y2K project and a new regional payroll system. Now she enjoys travel with her husband, time with her grandchildren, and time for regular exercise. She also continues to volunteer at the food pantry of St. Christopher Catholic Church in Speedway.

The couple also supports Marian athletics through an M-Club membership and have joined the Heritage of St. Francis Society through a planned gift in their will. (see p. 27)

“I enjoy my leisure time, but it’s important to do what you can to help others. We all get busy, but good stewardship—time and treasure—can have ongoing impact. That Marian alumnus set a great example for me so many years ago, and now I am fortunate enough to be in the position to give back.”





Bold Leadership Broadens Future Impact

Marian University 2019-20 Board of Trustees forged ahead and achieved many goals, even when the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated virtual meetings. One outcome of long-term board inquiry and evaluation is the new partnership with Ancilla College, announced in August of 2020. This collaboration, which will expand Marian's Indiana footprint, officially begins July 1, 2021.

In the Fall of 2020, Marian launched its latest bold endeavor, the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering, which will offer a four-year engineering degree program rooted in liberal arts.

MARIAN UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis®

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