

# The Student Government Association of Marian University

## First Annual Executive Board and Organization Report



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## A Letter from the President

**Students, Faculty, and Staff,**

What a year it has been! Together, as a community, we were able to make it through a lot of different challenges, successes, and everything in between. In the Fall and then again for the Spring semester, there was a lot of uncertainty as to how we would be able to come back to school amidst a pandemic, but, when it came to it, we all did our part in ensuring a safe transition back to in-person education. The Student Government Association would like to thank every Marian Knight for what they have done to keep themselves and others safe during these uncertain times. As Student Body President, I am proud to be a part of a community that has continually put the safety of others as the priority, even when it was somewhat inconvenient or less ideal. Our Franciscan Values have truly shined through, and it has set our community apart from the rest. We have remembered the need to ensure the dignity of human life is protected while being responsible stewards for our environment. Peace and justice shined through when we needed to share our gifts and talents to protect those we care about, especially in a time of social unrest. Lastly, reconciliation helped us to recognize those who may be in need during these times so that we could reach out and offer assistance. Again, I am humbled by what the Marian Community has accomplished this year, and I know we will continue to strive for a continuing sense of accomplishment as we continue to navigate the global pandemic.

This year was met with certain challenges that we were able to overcome as an Executive Board and as a community. We were unsure if in-person Senate meetings would be a possibility this year, but we were met with a willingness and excitement for a new year by the Senate. We were able to offer the virtual meetings if a senator needed it, but we found that, luckily, our senators were able to present and engaged in person. As an Executive Board, we thought of innovative ways to overcome each challenge, and I hope you all take the time to read through each letter written to see what actions the Student Government Association Executive Board took to overcome each obstacle while still celebrating the victories. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Marian Community as Student Body President, and I want to thank every student, faculty, and staff member for what they do to continue to make this a wonderful environment to be a part of. The Marian Community is such a special one because of who it is made up of, and I will forever treasure this experience.

Go, Knights!

Kylie Lehman, 2020-2021 Student Body President



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## Executive Vice President Report

Dear Marian Community,

This school year has been quite a difficult year, but with many challenges came a myriad of blessings and successes. On behalf of the Student Government Association, I would like to thank everyone in the Marian Community for doing their best during these trying times and making campus an active place despite the circumstances. As the Executive Vice President of SGA, I am so happy to be surrounded by other individuals who strive daily to make campus a fun and thriving atmosphere for all. From the multitude of events and club meetings to SGA senate meetings, I am so grateful to be a part of the process that makes Marian a wonderful school and energetic campus.

This past school year, SGA has served the Marian community well by meeting with the senators from the many organizations and clubs on campus. As executive Vice President, I take attendance for all of the senators as well as record the minutes of the meeting. I help ensure that the senators are receiving the important information discussed at senate meetings to pass on to their organization as a whole. This year had some challenges regarding attendance due to the pandemic, but as an Executive board we created new ways for organizations to interact through online spaces. I hope and pray that next year, SGA will come back better and stronger with this difficult year under our belt.

Again, I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve the Marian Community as the Executive Vice President of SGA, and I want to thank students, faculty, and staff for persevering through this difficult year while striving to create such an amazing environment here on campus.

Kind regards,

Kate Grabowski, 2020-2021 Executive Vice President

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## Vice President of Finance

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

I think we can all say with certainty that the 2020-2021 academic school year has been one for the books. While this year amid a pandemic has been challenging, that has not stopped the Student Government Association (SGA) from continuing to grow and prosper. Despite COVID-19, the Student Government Association continued to put our best foot forward and invest in the Marian University student community. Being a part of the Student Government Association has given me the great privilege of interacting with the students and administration of Marian University while experiencing personal and professional growth. The student body at Marian is alive and well.



By serving as the Vice President of Finance for the Student Government Association, I have witnessed first-hand the student body's desire and fire to evolve into the leaders of tomorrow. In the role of an SGA officer, I have encountered many obstacles with COVID-19 and being present to my fellow Knights. Specifically, in the role of Vice President of Finance, there have been challenges that I have seen from organizations with being able to hold events for their clubs. I have been able to witness that different clubs may not have been able to hold certain events or be allowed to have typical things that they would have at one of their events due to COVID restrictions, and how that plays into funding for their events. This has been a challenge but I have seen fruits come out of this. I have noticed clubs coming up with new original ideas that they could do in a COVID-19 setting.

Being a part of the SGA executive board has allowed me to step up into a leadership role that has allowed me to develop relationships with the student body and gain an inside perspective on how they want their clubs to grow further. I have enjoyed getting to see how clubs have grown from their new ideas. This year, there have been many clubs that were started up and it has been so fascinating to see. The student body at Marian is continuing to grow and it is shown in these clubs' organizations.

I have been so grateful to be involved with SGA. From being a senator for two different clubs my freshman and sophomore year to being on the executive board this year, my junior year. This is my last year at Marian as I will be transferring to Butler University's Doctor of Pharmacy program in August 2021. I am not only excited to see where I go in my future career as a pharmacist, but I am beyond excited to see where the student body at Marian will go! It has truly been a blessing to be a part of Student Government and it will be something I will continue to hold on to. Thank you to everyone who has helped the Student Government Association grow into what it is today, and I cannot wait to see how it continues to grow through the years to come.

From a Proud Marian Knight,

Drew Sullivan, 2020-2021 Vice President of Finance



## Update from Vice President of Mission and Identity

**Responsibilities:** While serving as the VP of Mission & Identity the main responsibilities of my position are to make sure that all registered clubs and organizations are upholding the Four Franciscan Values that Marian University has in place. I also make sure that all clubs/organizations that would like to receive funding for the upcoming semester complete two service hours with at least 50% of their club's active members. Outside of the senate itself I also sit on both the Campus Ministry Council and Mission & Identity Board of Trustees as the student liaison. I attend all meetings and then speak on behalf of the student body and relay important information from both to the current student body.

**Accomplishments:** While this academic year was not as everyone planned, I am happy to report that we have had some major accomplishments within the Mission & Identity side of SGA. Last semester we had all clubs/organizations met all the service requirements of two hours and 50% of active members participate. We as an executive board also implemented a new definition of service for all of our senators to refer to when finding a service project that fits within their club's mission statement. Our service process as a whole was greatly improved, we started the spring semester with all clubs/organizations service projects having to approved by the VP of Mission & Identity and the service submission form makes the clubs/organizations think and reflect on why and how they chose that specific service project.

**Challenges:** Some challenges that we faced this semester were why do we have to participate in service and before we implemented the definition of service, we had a very broad service definition that could be interpreted in many different ways. It was also brought to my attention that not all clubs/organizations were completing service and were still receiving funding. I was able to have a conversation and explain to these organizations why service is so important to not only the Marian community but the Indianapolis community as well.

**Changes:** The changes that I implemented this year as VP of Mission & Identity have been the new definition of service, updated the service approval process, and service submission process to make it more of a reflection than just a form to submit.

**Current Projects:** Currently I have two open and active projects. The first being that service submissions are due on April 27 at 8 p.m. The second is that I am overseeing and leading the constitutional review committee which is composed of three executive board members and three senators with the supervision of our advisor Sarah Balana Molter.

## Making Senate Connections Happen with the Senate President

Students, Faculty, Staff,

As Senate President, it is my job to serve as the liaison between the Executive Board and Senate Members. This includes making the agendas at each biweekly Executive Board Meetings, which will then be presented at the biweekly Senate Meetings. Also, I serve as a point person that Senate Members know they can come to and ask questions if they are not sure which Executive Member to get in touch with. This year, the main change that I made to Senate Meetings is the format of the information that is presented. In previous years, the talking points of the Executive Members were just on a word document that was projected during the Senate Meeting. Notes were simultaneously being taken on this word document. This was a distraction for the Senate Members as they should have been listening to the Executive Members and their reports and not watching extra notes being taken as well on that word document. This year, I implemented the idea of using a clean and organized PowerPoint presentation. This allows for each Executive Member to get their slide for when they speak, and it completely gets rid of any distractions for the Senate Members. Meeting notes are now being simultaneously taken during the Senate Meeting by our Executive Vice President. I think this change has gone over very well and I hope that this format is continued or at least the idea of having a clean and organized presentation with zero distractions. This was the main change that I headed this year and I believe that it was a very beneficial move. Finally, being Senate President, it is my job to remind the Senators of their role, which includes being present at meetings and relaying the information to their clubs and organizations. I do this at almost every meeting and will continue to do this for the remainder of the year. Overall, this was a great year with SGA, and I think we did an outstanding job of making sure that important information was relayed.

Thank you,

Alexis Felty

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# Organization Reports

## **Alpha Delta Gamma:**

Mission and Goals: To increase campus engagement and to bring more brothers into our fraternity.

Strengths of the Semester: creating a close bond with those who join the fraternity

Struggles: campus engagement and number of attendees to events

Annual Events to highlight: Carnival Night, Gaming Night

## **American Sign Language Club:**

The American Sign Language Club's mission is to support and invite the Marian student body, faculty, and staff to gain a greater awareness of Deaf culture and language. As a new club in the Spring Semester, we are excited about the initial strong, positive response from the student body and staff. We have held meetings in-person and virtually, both with invested student participation. Our main struggle this semester has been the overwhelming interest and demand from students, which presented issues of scheduling more meetings per month than originally planned. Overall, our club is thankful to the Marian community for being so interested in and committed to learning about ASL and the Deaf community. We look forward to continuing the excitement into next year!

## **Asian Student Association:**

The Asian Student Association is an organization with a mission to bring all students from Asia to Marian University and others who are interested in learning about the culture of Asia, and to share, grow, and contribute to the campus community. This year, it was a struggle to meet with members and get participation. Our strength includes being able to check up on each of our members by assigning each student to each of the officers. This was great for those who are not able to attend our bi-weekly meeting. Planning events amid the pandemic was a bit of a struggle, but we were successfully able to hold two events, both in person. For our events, we were able to enjoy a movie night and a distress activity where we painted on canvas. It was a great stress reliever with finals week being only a few weeks away. We were also able to hold a Prayer Service for Myanmar amidst the military coup happening in many of the member's home countries. We were all very happy that many people showed up. We had almost 100 attendees, it was probably our biggest event. For our next events, we have planned a game night and volleyball. Our goal as a club is to increase our participation, have more events to share each of the different Asian cultures, and grow as a club.

## **Association for Women in Mathematics**

The Association for Women in Mathematics' mission is to create a strong community celebrating and encouraging women in STEM, especially mathematics. This past year we have held events both in person and virtually, and in this upcoming year, we hope to expand these events even further! We are excited to start holding "teatime" once every month in hopes of developing a stronger STEM community at Marian. This is just one example of what the Association for Women in Mathematics hopes to accomplish next year. Overall, the Association for Women in Mathematics strives to create a community where all feel welcome and encouraged to pursue their dreams!



## **Be the Match – Marian University**

The Mission of Be the Match on Campus is to educate college-aged students on the importance of bone marrow donation for curing various blood diseases. We also promote college students to sign up for Be the Match to diversify the registry. This year, we mainly focused on holding tabling events to make an appearance on campus of who we are and what we do. Overall, Be the Match on Campus continues to work towards educating our students and faculty here at Marian University and our main focus for the remainder of the semester and next year will be to increase member participation at our tabling events.

### **Best Buddies:**

Best Buddies is an international nonprofit organization that is dedicated to establishing a global movement that creates opportunities for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This year we have held many events virtually and have sent multiple care packages to the buddies. The care packages have included crafts and activities for the buddies as well as the materials to send letters to their Marian University students. Due to COVID-19 Best Buddies has limited all chapters to be virtual for the time being, but we have tried to overcome this as best as possible with our virtual events. Overall, the Best Buddies club continues to strive for integration and inclusivity for those with IDs.

### **Campus Activities Board:**

Campus Activities Board (CAB) encourages student leadership and involvement. We provide exciting activities throughout the school year, including movie nights, monthly Coffee Houses, and Homecoming Week activities, just to name a few. Our mission is to promote and facilitate an active campus life for all students that leads to fun, entertainment, and strong social connections. An integral part of CAB's mission is to create a community on campus. We do this by planning events that are open to all MU students and we see that students come to CAB's events in groups with their friends, returning to our events time after time. We have converted many of our annual events to have virtual attendance options in light of COVID-19 restrictions, but we sometimes struggle with strong attendance at virtual events. Another aspect that we have struggled with is recruiting new members, but this is something that we have made a goal for the upcoming school year. CAB is working to increase student involvement and is looking forward to planning another great school year of fun events.

### **College Mentors for Kids**

College Mentors for Kids is a national program that pairs an elementary student with a college mentor. Our chapter here at Marian partners with Holy Angels Catholic School. We have a total of 25 little buddies who meet with their mentors every Thursday. Our activities are focused on higher education as well as community service. Covid-19 has presented many different challenges this year for the program. Usually, the little buddies come to campus, but to ensure the safety of everyone, we have moved to a completely virtual environment. We have still been able to maintain meaningful relationships thanks to our WONDERFUL mentors.

**Fellowship of Christian Athletes:**

Fellowship of Christian Athletes, or FCA, is a national organization whose mission is to encourage coaches and athletes in their faith so that they can be strong leaders and role models for others through the image of Christ. Marian University has a huddle that meets every Sunday night to share in faith and fellowship together. The group starts by playing a game and catching up and then enters into a bible study in which they discuss how the Scripture they read can relate to their lives as athletes and how they can best serve their teammates and others through the Gospel. FCA welcomes people of all faith backgrounds as everyone has a voice to be heard! This semester FCA has had a solid and consistent core team that has been motivated to continue to get more people involved in the group. The organization has struggled throughout Covid to have bigger events they have held in the past such as the 3 v. 3 soccer tournament, the dodgeball tournament, and the sand volleyball tournament. Hopefully, these events can pick back up after the Covid season as they are a great way to get many people involved.

**Kappa Delta Pi:**

The mission of Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) is to recognize excellence in education. We are an international honor society designed to provide recognition, professional development, and fraternity to educators. This year, we were able to host several professional development opportunities virtually, as well as a few in-person service opportunities. For our service this year, we partnered with Cardinal Ritter High School to encourage teachers during this, particularly stressful year. We struggled to get participation in our events due to the nature of the pandemic, but we are hoping to get more members and participation in the future. Overall, KDP strives to recognize and support current and future teachers.

**Knights for Life:**

Marian University's Knights for Life organizes and activates pro-life students on campus to protect life from conception to natural death, particularly those lives threatened by abortion, infanticide, embryonic stem cell research, and euthanasia. This year, we successfully held many in-person events and attendance remained strong. We were thrilled to introduce our Pregnant on Campus Initiative through education, activism, and helping women in need. This was an opportunity for our members to become living resources for the very women who are being targeted by the abortion industry. By lovingly supporting students who find themselves in unplanned pregnancies while in school, the Pregnant on Campus Initiative played a key role in showing the world that pro-life and pro-woman are the same. We also held our annual Choose Life Night, where people could come and learn about the different supportive services available to pregnant and parenting students. We were even able to hold a Stand for Life conference with an on-campus March for Life and rally. Overall, the Knights for Life Club continues to educate the surrounding community on pro-life issues and hopes to grow more in the future.

**Marian Alliance:**

The Mission Statement of the Marian University Alliance “is to create a space where students can explore and celebrate sexual orientation and gender identity in community and fellowship, focusing on the four core Franciscan values.” With the value of Dignity of the Individual, we believe that all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, etc. deserve to be treated with respect and work to create an atmosphere of inclusion. With the value of Reconciliation, we seek to mend the divides that exist among us and always respond with forgiveness and love when wronged by others. With the value of Peace and Justice, we aim to use our voices to speak for the silent and fight against all forms of injustice. With the value of Responsible Stewardship, we understand that we have a responsibility to the Marian community and strive to cultivate what we have been given for those who come after us. By putting these values into practice, the Marian Alliance has hosted a myriad of educational and community-building events including our Alumni Closet Talks Speaker Series, Poetry Night, and Transgender Day of Remembrance Prayer Service. Within our organization, we offer students support, advice, and community so that LGBTQ+ students can have a full, and positive college experience. We are also committed to service, connecting with other LGBTQ+ organizations and programs in Indianapolis, and working with other on-campus groups and departments to build up an inclusive and cooperative campus. To learn more or get connected with our organization, email us at [mualliance@marian.edu](mailto:mualliance@marian.edu) and visit our Instagram page @mualliance.

**Marian Maniacs:**

No report given

**Marian University Collegiate National Association for Music Education Chapter (NAFME):**

No report given

**Pre-SOMA:**

Pre-SOMA is the undergraduate division of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA). We are a new club to Marian University and is open to all those who are focusing on a pre-health degree in their time as an undergraduate student here at Marian. While we have not held any events yet since we are just starting as a new club, we are looking forward to future guest speaker nights and monthly suture nights. Overall, Pre-SOMA is continuing to grow as a club and is looking forward to our new events.

**Sophia Club:**

The Sophia Club is Marian University’s Philosophy and Theology club. Our goal is to promote discussion, engagement, and collaboration in a series of events our club hosts. Some of the most successful events are our movie nights and Theology on Taps, most recently our Theology on Tap on exorcisms. What we struggle with is what many other people struggle with, which is learning to best utilize technology in an age of COVID-19 to ensure our mission and goals are fulfilled. During the year, however, we encourage everyone to attend our Halloween bonfire, our Theology on Taps and reverse Christmas at the end of our fall semester.

**Psychology Club:**

The Psychology Club's mission is to advance the science of psychology by sponsoring professional speakers, bringing awareness to mental health issues, supporting student participation in undergraduate research conferences, and providing a vehicle for student interaction on the Marian campus and in the larger community. During the 2020-2021 academic year, we successfully hosted in-person and virtual events, however, we did struggle with lower-than-normal attendance at events. This was likely partially due to the ongoing pandemic. To increase participation and attendance, we started a Psych Club newsletter distributed via email to achieve more direct marketing of events to psychology majors and minors, maximized use of our social media platforms, and partnered with the Social Work Student Organization for some events to help attract a larger audience. We hosted an in-person, outdoor, game night as our call-out meeting during the Fall 2020 semester where we attracted a handful of new members. We were thrilled to hold the virtual event "Black Minds Matter: Racial Disparities in Mental Health Outcomes and Access to Mental Health Care," during the Fall 2020 semester where we welcomed Phaecia Ward, LCSW. Phaecia brought awareness to the racial disparities in the African-American community by sharing her experience and the experience of others while working in her profession. During the Spring 2021 semester, we are hosting a virtual speaker from the Illinois Institute of Technology, Dr. Rachael Ellison, a clinical neuropsychologist who will deliver a talk entitled "Multicultural Considerations in Neuropsychology: Applications to Research & Clinical Work". Also, during Spring 2021, we will be hosting a walk in the Eco Lab to celebrate Earth Day where we will be learning mindfulness and savoring practices that students can use to promote psychological well-being. We had to get creative with our service projects since the Holy Family Shelter, the organization we typically partner with for our service projects, was not allowing volunteers into the building. Instead, we drew attention to the environmental impact of meat-based diets by organizing a "Meatless Monday" the week of Thanksgiving for the Fall 2020 project. For the Spring 2021 service project, we partnered with the Counseling and Consultation Services office at Marian University to distribute self-care packages to students on campus. We are very proud of the Psychology Club's accomplishments during this unusual academic year and look forward to carrying forward some of the innovative ideas that were required this year to further improve the Club's offerings during the 2021-2022 academic year.

**Student Nurses Association**

The nursing association is a pre-professional organization for nursing students. It allows pre-nursing and nursing majors to build a support system both academically and socially for greater success as a nursing student. MUSNA prepares its members for becoming nurse leaders upon graduation. MUSNA strives to provide leadership opportunities, service opportunities, professional networking, connection with other nursing students on campus, connections with current and future professors, connections with faculty, and connections with other clubs on campus. Our strengths this semester was creating a successful alumni mentorship program, having a very successful Legacy of Leadership Conference with over 60 participants and nursing leaders from around the US. This year MUSNA held 45 online events where we welcomed over 30 guest speakers and collaborated with over 10 outside organizations. We are very happy that we have been able to overcome the obstacles of COVID-19 and still provide students with awesome opportunities. Some annual events are the Legacy of Leadership Conference, Pre-Nursing Induction Ceremony, Nurse Recruiter Panels with the Exchange, Nursing School Success Sessions with the Peer Tutoring Center, What I Wish I Knew in Nursing School Panel, Alumni Mentorship Program, Pre-Nursing Mentors, CPR certification and recertification classes.

**Sigma Zeta:**

The Sigma Zeta National Honor Society's mission is to help students in STEM meet, collaborate, and further their academic careers by offering independent research opportunities, networking opportunities, and career preparation opportunities. This year, most of our events were held virtually, which allowed students outside of STEM be able to attend and participate, broadening our reach both on campus and in the community. Even though we couldn't get together as a group for volunteer services, we have encouraged our members to complete volunteer opportunities on their own, which gives our members more freedom to help the university and the community in their own, individual ways. However, due to this semester being largely virtual we have had some issues with member participation and outreach, but this issue will be resolved once in-person activities can start back up! Some annual events that our organization hosts that are open to all students are our Nitrogen Ice Cream event, wherewith the help of one of our amazing professors we make ice cream using liquid nitrogen, which is held in April each spring. We also have several professional panels including medical students, current doctors, and graduate school professors throughout the year. We also recently began a collaboration with the medical school to help strengthen our connections and networking abilities for our undergraduate students. And lastly, our semester kick-off lab coat mixer where students receive free safety goggles to decorate as they wish, and students from different major backgrounds get to network and meet their future professors and classmates. Our chapter of the Sigma Zeta National Honor Society began in 2012 and has grown stronger each year with the help of our many members and dedicated advisors Dr. Joyce Horton and Steve Dougherty!

**Student Organization of Latinos:**

The student organization of Latinos, or SOL as we call it, is just one of the few multicultural groups on campus. As a group, our mission is to improve and enhance the educational experience of Latino students at Marian University by implementing academic, cultural, and social programs designed to address Latino needs and further individual success as well as create cultural awareness on campus. We all know that 2020 was not a great year for anyone due to the COVID-19 pandemic; many of us struggled as individuals and within our organization. For example, we have had a bit of a struggle obtaining and maintaining students in the club throughout the year. Also, since COVID-19 hit, it has been difficult coming up with ideas and ways to create events on campus while keeping students socially distanced and safe. On a heavier note, we have also seen that there is a lack of cultural competency and awareness among the Marian community regarding ethnicity. An example of this as we have seen on various occasions is that there is the belief that everything "Hispanic" or "Latino" is always Mexican. What is not taken into consideration, is that there are other Spanish-speaking countries with their traditions and customs. There's Honduras, Panama, Puerto Rico, and Colombia, just to name a few of the many Hispanic countries that exist. In addition to that, we have noticed that there is not much representation on campus in terms of professional faculty. Unfortunately, the majority of Spanish-speaking people on campus are either students, Spanish teachers, cafeteria employees, and janitors. This is an area we hope to see the university grow in because as minority students we would love to have more professional staff who look like us. Despite concerns and hopes of improvement in the areas we mentioned, we have had successes at Marian as an organization. Although our number of participating students has decreased, we have gained a good number of students that have become consistently active members. We have also had a great success rate in maintaining and adjusting our traditional events to fit the restrictions and protocols that have been placed. Some of our most popular events this semester and in the past include Fiesta Latina, Día de Los Muertos, and Latina Voices. Each one is as important as the other and has a big amount of significance to our community. Fiesta Latina is a big event

we put on to demonstrate and educate on the various ways that Hispanic Heritage month can be celebrated. Another aspect that ties into it is that we educate our Marian community on why celebrating the Hispanic heritage is important and what it looks like. Dia de Los Muertos is an event in which we teach students about an international celebration for loved ones that have passed away and what that looks like to the Hispanic community. For context, Dia de Los Muertos is equivalent to all saints or All Souls' Day which is celebrated in countries like France. Instead of being sad about our loved ones that are gone, we celebrate the life they lived and share happy memories we had with them. Lastly, we have Latina voices that we plan every March in recognition and celebrate it being women's history month. We want to bring strong independent women, whether they are Marian Alum or not, to show what it is like to be a Latina in the society we currently live in, as well as hear stories on how these women have thrived and struggle in the workforce. It is our hope as an organization that our Marian community will walk away from our events with a better understanding of the Hispanic-Latino community, its students, and its uniquely diverse educational, emotional and supportive needs to ensure the Latino student's success and engagement at Marian.

### **The Social Work Student Association:**

The Social Work Student Associations' mission is to bring attention, empower and advocate for those who are in need, poverty, and oppressed. As well as educating classmates on the wide variety of fields that social workers take part in and how social workers are incorporated in aspects of life people may not know about. Our Association has been struggling to gain full attendance to our events as well as getting members to be consistent. A second struggle that we have encountered is that we have yet to attain a treasurer and a social media chair to join our executive board. One strength of this semester that we have had as an association is that while we have been able to get more awareness and knowledge of our association and our group number is slowly growing.

### **Union for Black Identity:**

Marian University's Union for Black Identity strives to create a family dynamic and build a community for the African American students at Marian University and in our surrounding community through educational, social, and cultural programs designed to address interpersonal needs and promote individual successes. This year, the challenge of COVID-19 restrictions across the country and the university served as a speed bump but certainly not a roadblock in our successes. Weather permitting, we were able to host outdoor events with utmost participation from both members and allies like our joint First Annual Backyard BBQ and Annual Family Game Night. We also enjoyed having both virtual and in-person options for events, we find that we have a pretty good balance of both when the option is presented. The challenges of the semester tunneled us to be more creative and innovative in engaging the family as well as trying to program to the needs and requests that of members and allies. Regardless of what the year has brought and what is to come, we have undying love and dedication to our mission and goals. We will continue to bring a sense of normalcy to these uncertain times by hosting our annual and most consistent events as well as new ideas in any way possible.

**Ultimate Frisbee Club:**

The Ultimate Club's mission is to have an organization on campus to teach the rules, strategies, and other details of the sport of Ultimate Frisbee; to recognize the dignity of the individual of all through the practice and playing of Ultimate Frisbee; and to cultivate a community of sportsmanship, athleticism, completion, and fun. We currently have weekly practices on Sunday from 12:30-2 p.m. located on the Rugby Pitch in the Eco Lab. We are also active throughout the week, oftentimes throwing a disc or playing a game by the fountain. All skill levels are welcome to join!

**Theta Phi Alpha:**

Theta Phi Alpha's mission is to advance educational, social, and philanthropic interests, as well as create close comradeship and promote lifelong bonds of friendship. We're passionate about building the sisterhood within the chapter and spreading positivity across campus, something we feel very strongly about especially in the middle of a pandemic. This semester so far, we've had a successful recruitment week to build the number of sisters in the chapter. However, this has been very difficult with COVID-19, but we've been able to adjust to the "new normal" very well. We're excited for our upcoming sisterhood retreat, where we'll further strengthen our sisterhood within the chapter. We're also excited about Unity Week, where we bring alumni to campus to celebrate the initiation of our new members. Overall, Theta Phi Alpha will continue to spread positivity around campus and continue improving our sisterhood and participation in the upcoming year.

**Young Americans for Freedom:**

Young Americans for Freedom Marian Chapter is an organization that is dedicated to creating a college campus environment that promotes traditional American values such as personal responsibility, a right to bear arms, and freedom of expression. Our goal is to provide a place for mutual inquiry and learning about different points of view. We believe one of our strengths of the semester is our designer to do meaningful service. For this semester, we will be partnering with the Eco Lab to aid in the clearing of invasive plants to help better the health of Marian's prized ecosystem. One area that we have struggled in is organizing speakers to come on campus and provide in-person talks on important topics due to COVID-19. Our annual event that we are most proud of is our 9/11 prayer service and memorial.