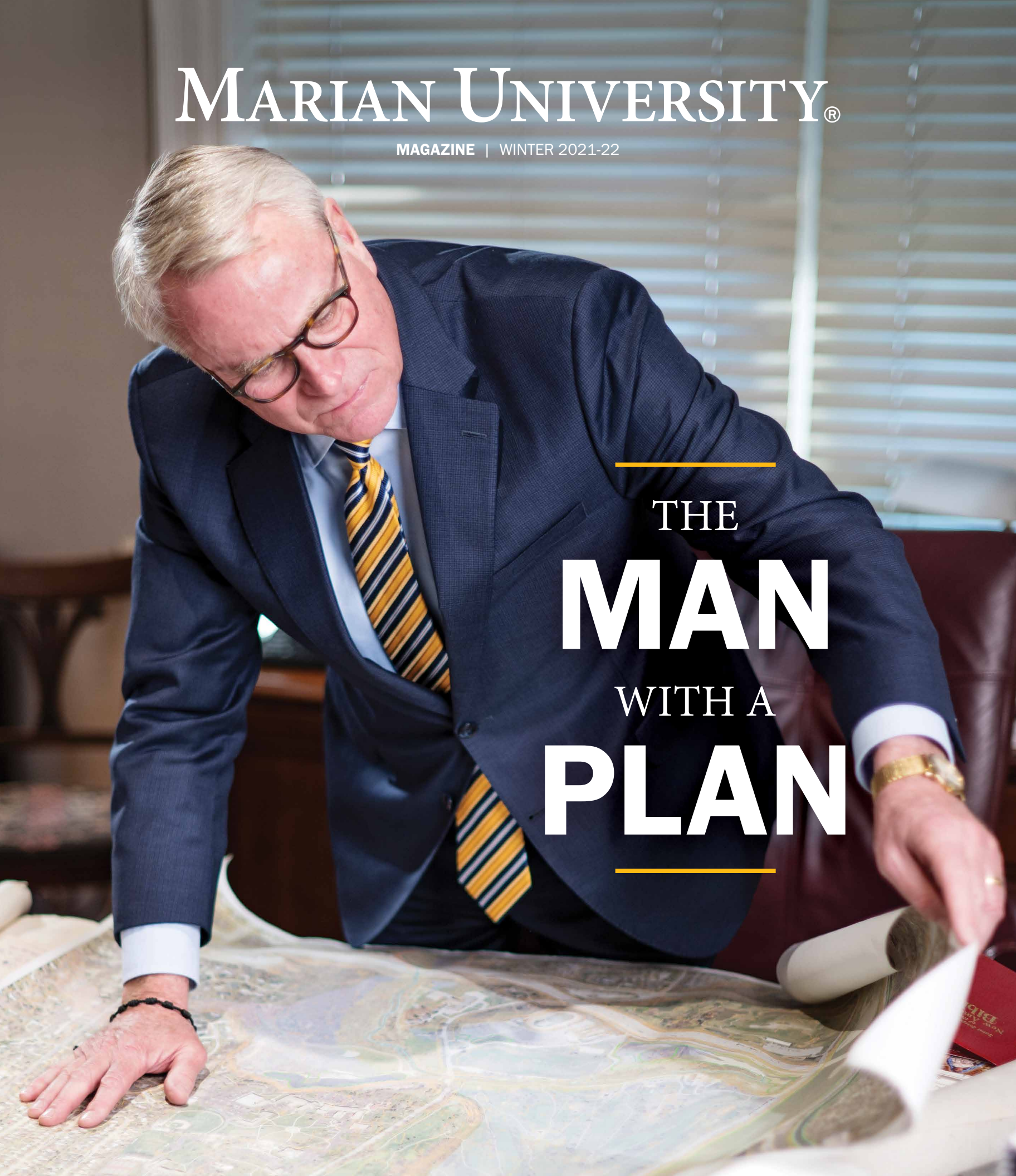


MARIAN UNIVERSITY®

MAGAZINE | WINTER 2021-22

A man with glasses, wearing a dark blue suit, a light blue shirt, and a yellow and blue striped tie, is leaning over a large map spread out on a table. He is looking intently at the map. The background shows a window with blinds and a leather chair.

THE
MAN
WITH A
PLAN

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Indianapolis®



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4

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MAGAZINE | WINTER 2021-22



This logo represents all of Marian University's campuses and site locations, and is used when communications are meant for the entire campus community.

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as of October 4, 2021



Dear Marian University Community,

It has been an honor to celebrate 20 years of service to the Marian University community. In 2001, the Marian College community was experiencing serious financial challenges. Over the past two decades though, the Marian University community has come together to bring about dramatic growth. Our student body, facilities, and academic programs are thriving as a truly great Catholic university in this great American city.

Through the generous efforts of many collaborators, we opened the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Fred S. Klipsch Educators College, Marian University's Saint Joseph's College, the Walker Center for Applied Ethics, Marian University's Ancilla College satellite campus, online accelerated and graduate nursing programs, and Marian's Adult Programs. Marian also launched an NAIA national champion football program, and has developed national champion teams in cycling, women's basketball, and women's volleyball. Enrollment has grown fourfold. On pages 4-9, you will find an in-depth look at my point of view on what it has been like to serve the Marian community as all of these remarkable developments have unfolded.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of the last 20 years, we also look forward to the further strides we will take in the future. You can read about the latest updates on two of our most ambitious and exciting initiatives in Marian's history, the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering on pages 10-11, and Ancilla College on page 12.

Of course, all of Marian's past, present, or future accomplishments are only possible because of the incredible university-wide efforts and generosity. In this issue, you will be able to meet some of the people who are leading Marian forward for an even more exciting future: Jillian Lain, the director of City Connects on page 13; and Manuela Salazar of the Latino Leadership Initiative on page 14.

On page 15, you'll learn about our new satellite research laboratory and the important research being led by our esteemed assistant provost of research and scholarship, Jonathan Lowery, Ph.D. Dr. Lowery also serves as an associate professor of physiology for the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine. On pages 16-17, you will also be able to read about one of our dedicated faculty members, Professor Rob Denton, Ph.D., who is working with his students to conduct some very interesting research on salamanders. The increased opportunities for faculty and students to work together to produce innovative scholarships is a development underway in the Marian University experience. These experiences are critical to Marian's commitment to educating transformational leaders for service to the world!

In speaking of our students—throughout the years, Marian University students have given unflagging leadership to make Marian University a truly remarkable community of higher learning. On pages 18-19, you'll have a chance to learn about some of our student-athletes who competed in the Tokyo Olympic Games. On pages 24-25, you will learn of our Marian graduates who have gone on to be leaders in their communities and professional fields.

It has been a privilege for me to follow my calling to serve the Marian community through these blessed years. Everything we have achieved is truly thanks to faith, family, and many talented and dedicated leaders who have come together to advance the mission of this university. This issue of the *Marian University Magazine* highlights outstanding members of the Marian community, but be assured, I offer prayers of thanksgiving for the generations of Sisters, past presidents, faculty, staff, students, and generous donors who have made Marian University the innovative leader in higher education it is today. With deep devotion to prayerful reflection on our vision, mission, and values, we will move boldly and courageously forward in advancing human flourishing through the leadership of this great Catholic university in this great American city.

With Gratitude,

Daniel J. Elsener
 President

MARIAN UNIVERSITY®



#2

Most Innovative School among Midwest Regional Universities
by *U.S. News & World Report*



#15

**Best Undergraduate Teaching among
Midwest Regional Universities**
by *U.S. News & World Report*



Top 30

**Regional Universities
in the Midwest**
by *U.S. News & World Report*

A photograph of a middle-aged man with light hair, wearing a white dress shirt and a red patterned tie. He is standing outdoors with green trees and a white statue in the background. The text 'Faith and Fortitude' is overlaid in a large, elegant, dark blue cursive font across the center of the image.

Faith and Fortitude

BY SHELLY KELLEY
Freelance Writer

DANIEL J. ELSENER'S 20 YEARS
OF PRESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE

On August 1, 2001, Daniel J. Elsener became the eighth president of Marian College. At the time, Marian's great tradition of excellence was being threatened by insufficient resources and the bank refusing to renew its letter of credit. But this situation didn't sit well with the new president and key board members. Where others saw problems, they saw potential—potential for what Marian could be if it only had a little courage, a little imagination, and a reliance on faith in God's grace.

Dubbed the Marian Miracle, President Elsener began his tenure by not only collaborating with college leaders to rescue the college from its financial woes, but also by establishing a championship football program and transforming Marian College into Marian University. Today—20 years later—the university has raised more than \$300 million to support students; dramatically increased the number of highly talented students; and saw the completion of multiple professional programs, among them the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine and the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering.

To say Elsener has been busy would be, simply put, an understatement. Triumphs have abounded in the past two decades, feats that not only would have been unimaginable when he first arrived, but that have since pulled Marian up from its scarce resources and turned it into a celebrated institution of faith and leadership. “Your greatest challenges can become your greatest sources of motivation, and we’ve faced challenge after challenge,” said Elsener.

Indeed, Marian has had to fight hard to generate the resources it needed to recruit high-caliber students away from outstanding universities. In 2021, after years of a commitment to collaboration and fundraising, the university attained its largest-ever student enrollment, with over 5,600 students registered. With such a target hit, many leaders would consider their mission accomplished and move on—but Daniel J. Elsener is not most leaders; according to him, there's still a long way to go to achieve his 'aggressively aspirational vision.' Fortunately, it's this vision that has persuaded so many generous donors and leaders to invest.

“Our donors' support makes a real difference here, a difference they can see in our students. That's not something that often happens at the big universities,” he explained. “But when you get into the ring with tough competition you need to train hard, work hard and, most importantly, have support. If you have all three, you can pull a lot of big upsets.”

One of these upsets occurred when Elsener and the board decided they would create a football program. Lacking players, a coach, a stadium, and land, the idea seemed bleak and a little preposterous—one faculty member even expressed their concerns openly to the new president. “I can remember one professor telling me that it was a bad idea, that I was going to embarrass the school and myself, and that any team we put together would get killed. And in that moment, I said to myself, ‘Only start what you intend to be the best at.’ And now? Now we have multiple national championships under our belts.”

Right: President Daniel J. Elsener helps amp the crowd at the beginning of a football game at St. Vincent Field.



“YOUR GREATEST
CHALLENGES CAN
BECOME YOUR
GREATEST SOURCES
OF MOTIVATION.”

PRESIDENT DANIEL J. ELSENER





Football isn't the only championship team the Marian Knights have seen arise under their president's tenure—known as the Knights on Bikes, the university's cycling team has seen their own share of success since Elsener agreed to take over facility management of Indianapolis' Lake Sullivan Sports Complex in 2011. Transformed into the innovative Indy Cycloplex, the BMX park has become the Marian Cycling Knights' home-turf and has since hosted six national championship races, five Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) weekends, and countless local and regional events. Looking back, inventive accomplishments like this remind Elsener that having a big vision is one thing, but seeing it through to fruition is quite another. There are times when determination and hard work aren't enough, and a little creativity must be introduced to get the job done. Perhaps the most notable example of this was in fundraising for what would eventually become St. Vincent Field, Marian's football stadium.

"In the early days, I was working with a donor who wasn't certain he wanted to make a gift to help fund it. That is, until I promised him I'd ride in on a horse with the team behind me for the opening game," laughed Elsener. "And we did it! We did it then, and we've done it since then too."

If riding across St. Vincent Field on a horse has taught the alumni of Marian anything, it's that their president is unpredictable; a fact current students learn each time he sneaks up in the St. Francis Bell Tower to ring the bell at random hours of the day and night. "It's a real bell with a real hammer, and I can ring it whenever I want—they gave me the key! It's attached to a dorm and those poor students probably want to kill me when I ring it early in the morning. But sometimes I'll take them up there with me to give it a good whack."

These memories are remembered fondly by Elsener, who occasionally chokes up walking across the campus he feels so very blessed to serve. The beauty of the new buildings and additions to the old, the growing community of students, and the air of academia is as inspiring to him today as it was in his first days—and it reminds him that God has walked with the Marian University community throughout this journey to guide his leadership. "Looking back," he said, "I wish I'd spent less energy with concern and doubt and more time praying and enjoying the many blessings, but the concern and focus may have gotten things done. After all, nothing happens without a thoughtful and concerted investment."

Investing time and energy into worthwhile endeavors isn't new to Elsener. Prior to serving at Marian, he earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Nebraska Wesleyan University and his master's degree in education administration from the University of Nebraska before going on to serve in several influencing roles: a teacher; high school principal; superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wichita; secretary and executive director for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; and just prior to Marian as executive director of the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation.

In each of these roles, Elsener focused on his dedication to improving education for all people, from young children to adult learners. To this day, he remains committed to raising funds for students of all backgrounds—one of the highlights of his service—and is committed to creating programs that advance their academic achievement.

“ People don't realize everything Dan has done to help kids in need get a quality education,” said Elizabeth Elsener, first lady of Marian University and wife of Elsener. “It's truly a beautiful thing.”



Top left: At the Marian University Rise Gala on October 23, 2021, Anne Elsener, Ph.D. '01, director of curriculum and instruction at Chicago Jesuit Academy, spoke about Marian's progress in the field of education and then welcomed her dad, President Daniel J. Elsener, to the stage to deliver his remarks on his 20 years at Marian.

Bottom right: President Daniel J. Elsener welcomes incoming freshmen at one of the New Student Orientation days.



United in championing education as a vital component in advancing the dignity of every person, the Elseners have immersed their own family of nine children and 34 grandchildren in a family life that is centered on faith, love, and service to others, just as Marian's founders—the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana—had in their time. "I often think of one of my predecessors, Dr. Gallo, and Al and Sue Leighton, and all they have done to make our nursing school a national leader and how we've benefited from it," said Elsener. "It's neat to think about all the people who have followed in the footsteps of the Sisters who first created Marian—many hands, hearts, and minds have touched this community."

The Sisters' modern legacy began in 1851, when they planted the foundational seed of Marian University to provide education to the community. Viewing it as a personal journey full of human interactions and relationships, they embraced four Franciscan values that the Marian University community strives to live by each day: dignity of the individual; peace and justice; reconciliation; and responsible stewardship. It is through these values that Marian prepares transformational leaders for service to the world.

“ When I see the number of talented people—alumni, donors, board members, faculty, and staff—that we've brought together to focus on advancing culture and professions critical to the common good? It has made my faith stronger than ever,” said President Elsener. “Because of them, every student who attends our university is making their mark on campus and in the world. From those who come from under-resourced backgrounds to incredibly wealthy backgrounds, each one is full of energy, ideas, creativity, optimism and, most importantly, hope. To watch them come together and make their leadership mark? It means everything.”

Top: President Daniel J. Elsener catches up with some alumni tailgating prior to a Marian University football game.

Middle: President Daniel J. Elsener congratulates graduates at Marian University's Commencement Ceremony.

Bottom: President Daniel J. Elsener and some Marian University students participating in Indy Do Day, a city-wide community day of service.

ENROLLMENT UNDER PRESIDENT ELSENER'S LEADERSHIP

2000-01

1,271



2011-12

2,555



2021-22

4,101

Elsener's adoration for the students of Marian is only matched by the students' admiration for him: his time, effort, and attention to the university and its people have not gone unnoticed. Seen as a guiding light across campus, he serves as the ultimate example of how to be a transformational leader, while also making every student he meets feel seen and heard.

"President Elsener is the exemplary Marian Knight—his dedication to all students inside and outside the classroom is contagious," said Ryan Penry, president of the Undergraduate Student Government Association. "It's an honor to have him serve as our president, and I look forward to the day I receive my diploma so I can show him just how much of a transformative leader he and his team have developed within me."

Neha Patel, president of the College of Osteopathic Medicine Student Government Association, shares Penry's sentiments, as she has experienced Elsener's dedication firsthand. "Our president is not only the kind of leader I hope to become in the future, but also a mentor who tries to understand me as a person. Of course, he has fostered my professional side, such as introducing me to various physicians and community leaders, but he has also helped me progress by integrating that professional life with my personal life, like allowing me to say a Hindu prayer during our Board of Trustees meetings," she said. "While there are many milestones being reached at the university, I've noticed that he never forgets the medical school—and at its heart—the medical students. I appreciate that tremendously."

Elsener's purpose to drive positive change has kept him busy over the past 20 years and is likely to continue to. With no intentions of slowing down, he hopes his spirit will inspire future generations to work towards what God has called them to do, just as he has:

“When I think about the future, I hope this place stays aspirational. We're all stewards of God's gifts and that should never point to average—always fight up a weight class and always do more, do it better and do it for people.”

– President Daniel J. Elsener

No matter what the future holds, the foundation being built by two decades of dedicated service by President Elsener has taught the people of Marian University not only how to dream, but how to achieve with perseverance, courage, and boundless faith.



The Unrivaled Legacy of Elizabeth Elsener, First Lady of Marian University

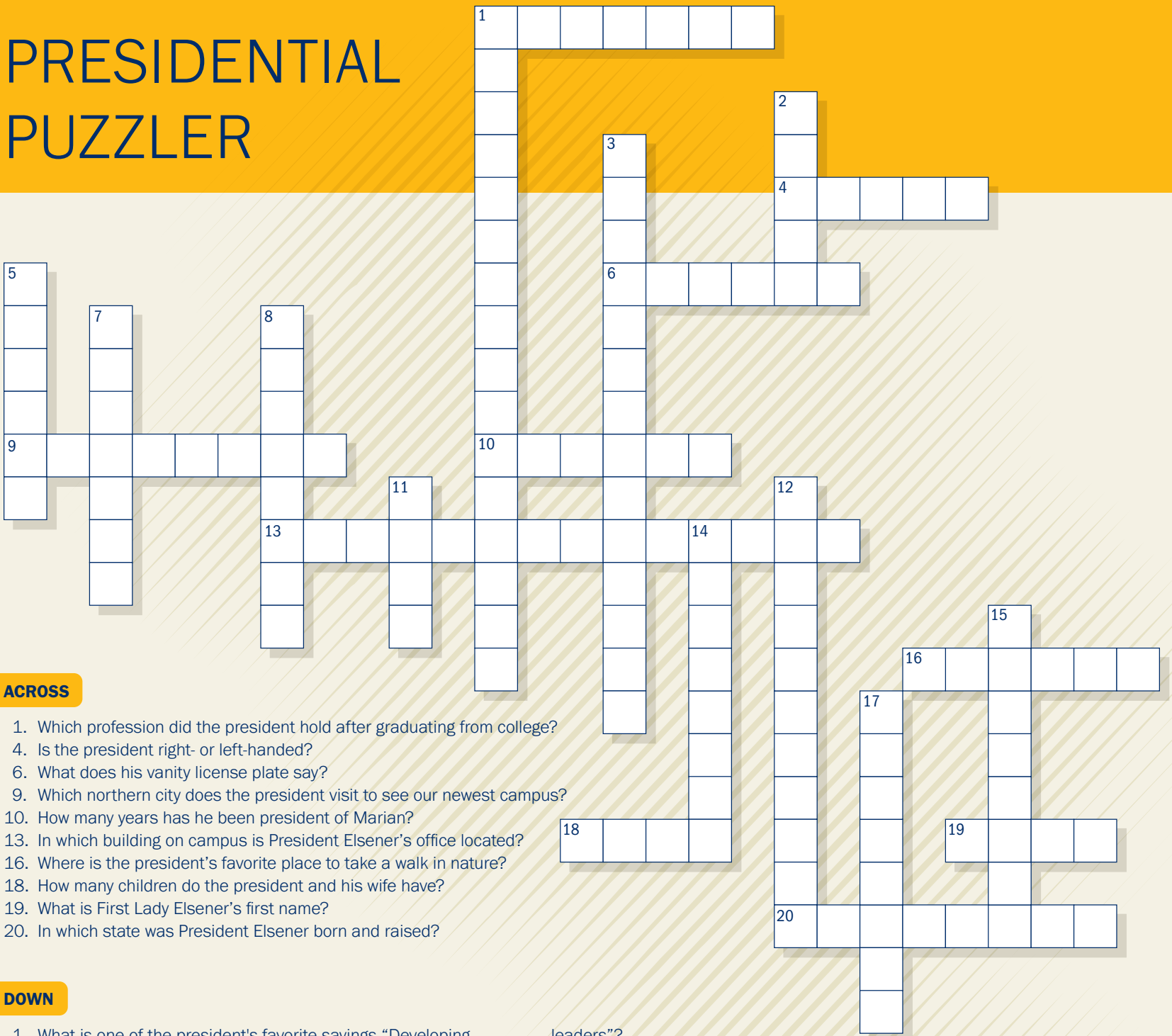
When Daniel J. Elsener first accepted the position of president at Marian University, Elizabeth (Beth) Elsener was eager to see what her husband would accomplish. Little did she know that she too—as a first lady—would bring an unrivaled legacy of grace and attainment to Marian's history.

“I've always been a stay-at-home mom and being a first lady was a bit like that in the sense of learning on the job,” said Beth. “There have been a lot of long days and sleepless nights, but there have also been countless joys and blessings.”

From fundraising, to friendraising, to event planning in cooperation with a talented team of leaders, Beth has invested countless hours into Marian's future with the hopes that it will continue to flourish as a great Catholic university in Indianapolis. And with 20 years of experience under her belt, she looks back fondly at the surprise she felt in her first days. It wasn't until the Elseners arrived on campus that she discovered she wasn't just there to support her husband—she was there to support an entire campus of committed students, faculty, and staff.

“Every graduation we get to see the faces of the students and their families, and it reminds us how far we've come,” she said. “What's more, all our children have either attended Marian or married someone who has, because it's a very special place. And it's still, and always will be, moving forward.”

PRESIDENTIAL PUZZLER



ACROSS

1. Which profession did the president hold after graduating from college?
4. Is the president right- or left-handed?
6. What does his vanity license plate say?
9. Which northern city does the president visit to see our newest campus?
10. How many years has he been president of Marian?
13. In which building on campus is President Elsener's office located?
16. Where is the president's favorite place to take a walk in nature?
18. How many children do the president and his wife have?
19. What is First Lady Elsener's first name?
20. In which state was President Elsener born and raised?

DOWN

1. What is one of the president's favorite sayings "Developing _____ leaders"?
2. Which animal has the president taken onto the football field?
3. What is the president's nickname on campus? (four words)
5. What does the J in Daniel J. Elsener stand for?
7. What has the president been seen riding around campus?
8. Which sport did the president play in college?
11. How many of the president's children have attended Marian?
12. At which annual fall event does the president officially "Knight" new students?
14. The president has two of these awards, one of Indiana's highest honors "_____ of the Wabash."
15. What is the name of the president's newsletter?
17. Which month is the president's birthday?

MU
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ENGINEERING WITH A FRANCISCAN CONSCIENCE

THE E. S. WITCHGER SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

BY SHELLY KELLEY
Freelance Writer



The design is finalized. The groundbreaking is complete. And now—with the leveling of fields and pouring of concrete—the countdown for the opening of the inaugural E. S. Witchger School of Engineering has officially begun.

Located at the heart of campus, this centerpiece 70,000-square-foot facility will feature hands-on laboratories, makerspaces, machine shops, and state-of-the-art classrooms with the most modern pieces of equipment for engineers to interact with. But with such a pioneering building soon to rise up, the need for pioneers to physically inhabit the space has taken center stage.

“**Engineering is a challenging and rigorous discipline,”** says Binh Q. Tran, Ph.D., founding dean of the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering. “We’re looking for faculty who are dedicated to teaching, engaging with, and training the next generation of engineers, and students who are tough-minded and willing to meet the challenge.”



Recruiting engineers who are not just technically excellent, but who also embody Marian’s Franciscan sponsorship values is a key priority as the 2022 opening approaches. By enrolling creative, out-of-the-box thinkers who want to solve societal problems, the school aims to produce capable graduates who will work to advance society and improve people’s lives; but to accomplish such a goal, Dr. Tran knows employing the right faculty is crucial: “We’re seeking a diverse faculty who are excellent in their fields of engineering, who have an entrepreneurial spirit, and who can model the characteristics we wish for in future engineers. It will be difficult, but we want only the best for our students.”

Indeed, ‘the best’ is unquestionably what students will receive at Marian, as they’ll have the chance to participate in hands-on internships with local partners such as AMG Engineering and Manufacturing, Dallara Indy Car, Telemon and others, and internal university collaborations that include the Byrum School of Business, the Fred S. Klipsch Educators College, and the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Pending approval from the Higher Learning Commission, the engineering degree offerings will concentrate in:



PIONEERS WANTED!



LEARN MORE!

It was a pioneering spirit that helped forge our leadership institution back in 1851. We seek the next generation of pioneers to become a part of something that will be bigger than yourself, lasting beyond your years and impactful in ways yet to be understood.

OPENING FALL 2022

MARIAN UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis®
E. S. Witchger School of Engineering

Photo: *The Wright Brothers.*

"Collaborations are vitally important in engineering. No one can do it alone," says Dr. Tran. "The partnerships we're developing will open up doors for students and help us reach our goal of training a diverse group of engineers. Working with local partners on our high school summer camp project, for example, will expand the funnel of future engineering talent into the profession."

With such engaging external and internal partners, it's clear that fellowship will be a central value at the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering and, despite having small class sizes of 10-15 students, its programs will have a profound impact on Marian University: when fully built, the school will represent approximately 15-20 percent of the student body. According to Dean Tran, these students will be able to participate in intercollegiate sports, study abroad programs, and active student societies that will compete against other engineering universities; but more importantly, they will embody the pioneering spirit of the Sisters who founded Marian over 150 years ago by working to gain the skills and knowledge they'll need to lift up humanity. Whether

they end up working in infrastructure and building projects, engineering technologies to improve health and wellness, or developing solutions to clean energy and climate change—the work they'll contribute to will have great potential to improve the lives of others.

"It's truly an exciting time to be at Marian," says Dr. Tran. "Our new students and the faculty we hire will become the first pioneers on this engineering endeavor." Of course, creating transformative leaders isn't new to Marian—the university has long held a reputation for producing employable talent, and now many Indianapolis employers will begin to specifically target the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering students upon their graduation. But Dean Tran wants potential student and faculty applicants to understand the type of individual the school is seeking.

"Some people think engineers are introverts who work alone in cubicles, but nothing could be further from the truth. Our students and faculty will be pioneers who can innovate; who can problem solve; who can work in teams; and who can communicate with doctors, clients, and consumers. In other words," he says, "we are looking for tomorrow's leaders."



COMPUTER



MECHANICAL



ENGINEERING PHYSICS

To see a flight video about the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering, snap the QR code. For more information about the school, visit marian.edu/engineering or contact WitchgerEngineering@marian.edu.



Marian University's Ancilla College is Buzzing

BY CALVIN HOPPLE
Marketing Manager for Marian University's Ancilla College

Marian University's Ancilla College has completed its inaugural first semester in carrying on the mission of bringing Catholic higher education to our local community. Each of the 254 students are receiving a hands-on education with a commitment to unwavering excellence. In addition to this being the initial semester for Marian University in the Marshall County area, this semester saw the unveiling of the first bachelor's degree, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), the installation of the Board of Visitors, and the hiring of a dean of students Gay Lynn Crossley, Ph.D.

"Marian University's Ancilla College remains focused on serving the community and creating the talent pipeline that is needed to spur economic, social, and cultural growth. It will be this foundation of collaboration that will drive unwavering commitment to excellence, community service, human flourishing of our future leaders, and the success of the Northern Indiana region," said Chancellor Joseph P. Heidt.

To assist in bringing the special, close-knit culture that Marian is widely known for by students, staff, and faculty to its newest campus, Gay Lynn Crossley, Ph.D., was hired as dean in July 2021. Dr. Crossley has taught at Marian for 25 years, her courses emphasize research, creative non-fiction and memoir, personal writing, as well as food and culture.

“Working with Marian University's Ancilla College faculty and staff to serve students is essential to the university's success. We focus on programs that local employers need. Our students graduate career-ready, enriched with the values of Ancilla College's heritage and Marian University's Franciscan sponsorship,” Dr. Gay Lynn Crossley said.



With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the remarkable tradition of institutional founders, the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana, and an influential community of leaders, Marian University's Ancilla College is a noteworthy source of social, cultural, and economic success for our graduates and the positive influence we seek to have on the quality of life in this country and region.



MARIAN UNIVERSITY
Ancilla College

<p>254 STUDENTS</p>	<p>157 STUDENT-ATHLETES (61.8 PERCENT)</p>	
<p>51 FACULTY AND STAFF</p>	<p>6 ASSOCIATE DEGREES</p>	<p>1 BACHELOR DEGREE</p>



For more information about Marian University's Ancilla College, visit marian.edu/ancilla.

Marian's New City Connects Program Impacts 16,000 K-12 Students

BY LINDSEY GIARDINO
Freelance Writer

A new K-12 student support program implemented by Marian University will address the strengths and needs of every single student in the schools it serves.

The program, City Connects, recently launched in 34 schools throughout Indiana and Ohio, impacting more than 16,000 students. Each student at a City Connects school receives a personalized plan, which includes recommended community programs, resources, and school supports that will help improve their time spent outside of school. This, in turn, enables them to achieve their fullest potential when they're in the classroom setting.

Marian University serves as the Midwest's Technical Assistance Center for the program, which was established at Boston College in 2001. The university's implementation is the largest City Connects expansion to date and the first in the Midwest.

While the program is new to Indiana schools this fall, in other cities, it's proven to reduce student dropout rates and improve test scores and school attendance over several decades.

The director of City Connects Midwest at Marian University, Jillian Lain, shared that the program serves "every classroom, every student, every year" in the schools it's offered in. City Connects differs from the traditional student support model in which students who have the highest needs are the ones who receive the most services.

“ This program is all about implementing equity,” Jillian Lain said. “We’re talking about addressing the needs and strengths of every single student.”



She added that City Connects focuses on students holistically, including their health and social emotional learning.

“Traditionally, we look at student support as making sure that students are achieving academically; however, we know that everything around them and all the outside school factors also make a big impact on their ability to achieve.”

Extensive research conducted by City Connects has revealed its proven success:

- Statewide standardized testing shows that eighth grade students who participated in City Connects while in elementary school closed two-thirds of the achievement gap in math and half of the achievement gap in English/language arts, compared to their peers who did not participate in City Connects.
- Students who received City Connects in elementary school were half as likely to drop out of high school as their peers.



Lain said that City Connects has been a dream of Marian University's leadership for some time. With the massive learning loss students have experienced as a result of the pandemic, this past year was "the ripe time to bring the program to the forefront."

Marian University is implementing City Connects through an Indiana Department of Education Student Learning Recovery Grant.

The program's Midwest Technical Assistance Center, which is the hub for all City Connects programming in the Midwest, is housed at Marian University's new Center for Vibrant Schools—a center founded in early 2021 to support and improve K-12 academic performance in Indiana and throughout the Midwest.

“Historically, Marian University has been highly involved in the community and giving back to it, so this is another way in which the university is doing that, but in a really organized and intentional way, and hopefully creating transformation in schools,” Lain said. “We’re hoping to create long-term impacts in the Indianapolis and Indiana communities, which goes along with the mission of Marian University and continues to forge that mission forward in a new way.”

The Latino Leadership Initiative is Heating Up

BY LINDSEY GIARDINO
Freelance Writer

Manuela Salazar views her role as the executive director of the Latino Leadership Initiative at Marian University as one of being a friend and resource to the students she helps serve.

“Once they’re here, they know that I’m here to support them,” she said.

Salazar, a native of Colombia, was hired in October 2019 to lead the initiative, which seeks to raise educational achievement among Latinos by breaking down the barriers to higher education, infusing schools with transformational mentors, building a network of support, creating a center of faith, and more.

“The Latino Leadership Initiative is basically the result of a call that the university has to serve underrepresented and underserved students,” Salazar explained. “The mission of the initiative is to serve the students in an intentional way. We as Marian University want to be the best option for Latino students.”

Salazar added that the university aims to become a Hispanic-serving institution and this starts by having an enrollment of 25 percent first-time, full-time Latino students by 2025. When she started at Marian University in 2019, that number stood at 11 percent, which has since risen to 13.8 percent. Salazar noted that if this trend keeps up, the university is projected to meet its goal.

“This is definitely a priority for the university,” she said of the initiative. “I know we have a lot of work to do, but we’re willing to do it. Hopefully in the next few years we can have more results and show the impact of this initiative, as well as connect with other institutions and organizations to see what they’re doing that we can replicate.”

One recent extension of the Latino Leadership Initiative is through Marian University’s Initiative for Parish Renewal (Renovación), which equips pastoral leadership teams to transform Latino-serving parishes into thriving missionary communities. The university received a nearly \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. in October 2020 to help build on the Latino Leadership Initiative with a parish-focused certificate program and curriculum supporting Renovación.

Some current key focus areas of the Latino Leadership Initiative include recruiting students from schools with a high percentage of Latinos, fundraising for scholarships, and implementing a mentorship program for high schoolers. For this last part, the initiative sends Hispanic Marian

La Iniciativa de Liderazgo Latino va avanzando



University students into high schools, where they help students with their academics, as well as encourage them to attend college and guide them through the process.

Another focus of the Latino Leadership Initiative is to involve students’ families along the way, especially Spanish-speaking parents who might not know how best to support their first-generation college students.

“Our Latino culture is very family oriented,” Manuela Salazar said. “Values are very important. Our faith is very important. So, Marian University took all of that into consideration when creating this initiative—to serve the Latino community in an intentional and unique way.”

A Look Inside Marian University's New Satellite Research Laboratory

BY JONATHAN LOWERY, PH.D.

Assistant Provost of Research and Scholarship and Associate Professor of Physiology, Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine



Student-driven and faculty-led: those ideals form the foundation of research at Marian University.

Across academic disciplines, involvement in cutting-edge research correlates with greater depth of learning and a better understanding of how coursework applies to everyday life. Student participation in mentored research also leads to stronger connections with teammates, faculty members, and their professional fields at-large. These benefits enhance student satisfaction with and commitment to a chosen career. Additionally, demonstrated success as a scholar can influence desired placement of students in their next stage of learning—whether that is graduate or professional school, residency, or a first job.

I am honored and excited to begin my journey as Marian University's first assistant provost for research and scholarship. University leadership created my role to capitalize on the already impressive successes of our community members and to further catalyze our growth in new directions. In support of the 2030 Strategic Plan, I am charged with developing university-wide themes for research and scholarly activity that advance the Catholic and Franciscan distinctiveness of Marian University in the higher education marketplace. Simply stated, I want to see Marian University known as the national leader for coupling innovative education practices with real-world, advanced research—all while upholding the Marian Promise of support and intentional mentorship for students.

It's a big goal. But we can achieve it together.

Every wildly important goal must have strategy, and the ambitious growth of our research enterprise is no exception. We must link our innovative ideas with resources (human, financial, physical, etc.) and a commitment to responsible stewardship. We are already making great strides in this work, as evidenced by streamlining our day-to-day research and scholarly operations to help faculty achieve even greater success. We are intentionally aligning our university-wide research themes with existing areas of strength and inviting participation by interdisciplinary scholars—from theology and business to social work and healthcare and everything in between. This approach allows our dedicated community members to do what they do best: think innovatively and work together to solve big problems.

Marian University's new research laboratory at the Indiana Biosciences Research Institute located within the 16 Tech Innovation District exemplifies this approach. We are the first and only academic partner in this "biotech incubator" where our faculty, staff, and students work side-by-side with nonprofits and startup businesses. These faculty-led research teams are part of the Marian University Cell and Molecular Biology Group and come from varied academic programs and scientific disciplines, including physiology, biochemistry, genetics, neurobiology, and pharmacology. This strategic mixing of disciplines helps avoid innovation-blocking silos, thereby promoting collaboration and problem-solving through different lenses.

I think you'll agree: it's an exciting time to be a scholar at Marian University.



THE SALAMANDER COMMANDER

BY JUDY WILSON
Freelance Writer

There and Back Again is the alternate title of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic book *The Hobbit*, which depicts a journey that eventually leads back home. Rob Denton, Ph.D., Marian University assistant professor of biology, can certainly relate to that story's main character. After spending his childhood in Upland, Indiana, Denton's studies and work took him to Kentucky, Ohio, Connecticut, and Minnesota.

And now, he is happy to be back in Indiana, at Marian, for a project that is a dream come true and the culmination of years of related work. He was recently awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study a type of salamander and their unique form of reproduction.



Zac Herr, ZTH Photography

Genes and generations

"The main reason we study these all-female salamanders is that they are doing something that other animals can't or don't," Denton said. Many people think of heredity as being a roughly 50/50 blend from both parents. But there is a special piece of DNA that is only inherited from the mother.

In most animals, those two sources of DNA have worked out a finely tuned collaboration in order to do basic and important functions. However, because the mole salamanders that Denton is studying are all female, the DNA that has been handed down from daughter to daughter to daughter needs to collaborate with a genome from a completely different species. Denton and colleagues want to know how that "mismatch" influences the salamanders' genetic history, metabolism, and physiology.

The right place for the right time

"I've been fortunate to ask questions about these salamanders during a time when the technologies used for generating and analyzing DNA sequence data are exploding," Denton noted. "Much of our current work relies on sequencing lots of DNA to understand how they've changed in the past."

Denton is working along with other scientists who are also contributing their expertise to the research.



For more information about the salamander research project, snap the QR code or visit marian.edu/salamanders.





KNOWLEDGE SCIENCE TEACHING RESEARCH INNOVATION MISSION DISCOVERY LEARNING

How students are playing an essential role

Marian students are key collaborators on the project, as they will play an essential role in Denton’s research. “Students are involved in the research from start to finish,” he explained. “They will help take care of research animals, go out in the field to collect specimens, do the lab work on DNA sequencing, analyze gigantic datasets, and present findings. Participating in research is one of the most intense forms of learning for them, as it requires all of those skills they learn in classes to generate new knowledge.”

Denton finds working with students in the classroom and lab fulfilling in numerous ways. “First, absorbing some of their energy,” he said. “Seeing them get excited about what they are doing or what unique perspective they have on a problem. Second would be seeing them succeed.”

A childlike sense of wonder

Denton is coming full circle in more ways than one. “I’ve gravitated to animals and science as long as I can remember,” he reflected. “As a kid, every discovery around the house—from a toad in the garden to a cool moth by the porch light—was a big deal for me.”

He said what he’s doing now is similar to what he enjoyed as a child, in that it involves asking questions about the world and chasing after fascinating things.

Incorporating values into research and relationships

What makes Marian special when it comes to research and science? Denton said the university strives to provide increasingly forward-thinking and unique experiences, including research, for students.

“There is a nice sweet spot where we can have the resources to do cutting-edge research and be recognized as experts in our fields,” he said, “while still maintaining close ties to our students.”

Denton said he is mindful of, and inspired by, the university’s underlying principles as he works in the field, classroom, and lab.

“For me, the responsible stewardship value resonates the most, as it describes a real delight and wonder with the natural world,” Dr. Rob Denton explained. “That’s really the core of why I’m a scientist, that feeling of seeing something in nature and saying, ‘Wow, that is amazing. I have to know more. I have to tell people about this.’”



KNIGHTS ON BIKES IN THE TOKYO OLYMPICS

BY MICHAEL KUBANCSEK '13
Director of Cycling Operations
Marian University



Marian University student-athletes are no strangers to training and competing at a high level. However, this past summer, a couple Marian alumni had the opportunity to compete on the world's biggest stage by being selected to represent the United States at the Tokyo Olympic Games. Coryn Rivera Labecki '15 competed in the cycling road race, earning a seventh-place finish, and Felicia Stancil '18 raced to fourth place in the BMX racing event in Tokyo.

Rivera, originally from California, earned her B.S. in business marketing while racing in almost every cycling discipline at Marian during her time on campus. She was a part of national championship teams for the Knights, racing the track, mountain bike, cyclocross, and road, and earned titles in each discipline, including the team's first individual endurance mountain bike title. Rivera has also earned the United States National Road Race Championship title (2018) and just signed a new two-year contract with the Jumbo-Visma Professional Cycling Team. Rivera also serves on the Marian Cycling coaching staff as an international recruiting specialist.





In the women's road race at Tokyo, nearly 70 athletes from 40 different nations took to the start and Rivera served as Team USA's captain on the road. A small group escaped the field during the race to eventually deliver the winner to the line, but Rivera found herself in the chase group of eleven and sprinted to third in the group for a seventh-place finish overall.

Only a few days later, the American BMX racing squad got their Olympic action underway. Stancil was marked as a popular pick for the finals with several strong previous World Cup results, a Pan American title, and the 2019 USA Cycling Elite National Championship all on her resume. Originally from Lake Villa, Illinois, Stancil graduated from Marian in 2018 with a B.S. in exercise science and raced for the Knights in the BMX and MTB disciplines during her time at Marian University. She had previously earned the Collegiate Women BMX Individual Championship in 2014, 2015, and 2018 as a part of the team which also earned the team BMX championship the same years. Stancil won gold at the Pan American Championships in 2015 and had raced at the Olympic test event in Tokyo.

Stancil earned first, second, and second place finishes in her three qualifying rounds, easily advancing to the semifinals and confirming her place as one of the top-16 riders in the field. On day two of racing at the Ariake Urban Sports Park, Stancil cruised into the main event with the lowest points possible from the semifinals, and she avoided a series of crashes that plagued several other riders, including American teammates, ultimately earning the top BMX Racing result for the USA with a fourth-place finish.

In addition to two student-athletes competing in the Tokyo competitions, Marian University had two more individuals representing the blue and gold in Tokyo at the Games. Head Athletic Trainer John Locke served as lead medical for USA Diving in Tokyo, providing his usual top-notch medical care for American divers. Additionally, 2018 graduate Angelina Palermo was at the games serving as a United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee press officer for USA Cycling, providing social media content and press announcements for the cycling events.



Opposite, top: Felicia Stancil '18 competing in the BMX racing event at the Tokyo Olympic Games. Photo by Kit Karzen.

Opposite, bottom: Coryn Rivera Labecki '15, second from right, competing in the cycling road race at the Tokyo Olympic Games. Photo by Casey B Gibson/USA Cycling.

Above: Felicia Stancil '18 (left) and Coryn Rivera Labecki '15 (right), competing in the Tokyo Olympic Games. Photo by Casey B Gibson/USA Cycling.

Right: Angelina Palermo '18 (left) and Felicia Stancil '18 (right) at the Olympic Village in Tokyo.

Dear Friends,

When I began my fundraising journey with Marian College almost 20 years ago, I could never have imagined the Marian University of today. Fortunately, President Daniel J. Elsener had a stronger imagination!

He also had a clear sense of purpose. In order to honor his commitment to our dear founders, the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana, he knew exactly what we needed to do.

I remember him telling me what that was after one of our donor visits with a Marian College alumna. As was often the case after meetings with alumni, we walked out feeling inspired and excited by her story.

He said, “John, Marian College is a wonderful school, but it is up to us to take what the Sisters started and transform this unknown gem into a great Catholic university for Indianapolis, the State of Indiana, and beyond!”

As many of you know, President’s Elsener’s passion for Marian is easy to get behind, and, considering that Marian had “one foot in the financial grave and the other foot on a banana peel,” I was more than willing to roll up my shirt sleeves and get to work.

Twenty years later, it has been an honor to serve alongside him and with the many dedicated supporters who have generously invested in Marian’s mission to develop values-focused and ethical transformational leaders for this ever more challenging world of today.

The role Marian University plays within the community is more important now than ever as we serve within healthcare, business, education, faith, and other key areas of society.

I am thankful to President Elsener and equally thankful to the many investors who have helped transform an institution once struggling to pay the bills into a great Catholic and Franciscan university, advancing in STEHM while still grounded in the liberal arts.

But, (isn’t there always a *but?*) there is more work to be done. In order to execute Marian University’s strategic plan, we are needing to secure \$500 million by 2030. Today, we are more than \$225 million towards that need.

We still have a job to do, and, with your help, I know we can continue Forging Leaders together! I look forward to many inspiring and exciting conversations ahead.

Thank you,



John Finke
 Vice President for Institutional Advancement
 Marian University
 317.955.6202 | jfinke@marian.edu

Below left: President Daniel J. Elsener giving his opening remarks at the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering Groundbreaking Ceremony on June 4, 2021.

Below right: Caito-Wagner Hall, the new residence hall for freshmen, and the St. Francis Bell Tower.





MARIAN UNIVERSITY
FORGING LEADERS
the legacy we're made for



**OUR GOAL IS \$307 MILLION
 BY 2025 AND
 \$500 MILLION BY 2030.**

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

ACCESS AND SUCCESS

- 21st Century Scholars
- Athletics
- Byrum School of Business
- Fred S. Klipsch Educators College
- Helping Hands Fund
- Marian University's Ancilla College
- Marian University's Saint Joseph's College
- Student Life

EXCELLENCE IN STEHM

- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Osteopathic Medicine
- E. S. Witchger School of Engineering
- Leighton School of Nursing

FAITH IN ACTION

- Catholic Art and Architecture
- Latino Leadership Initiative
- San Damiano Scholars
- Sisters' Legacy Fund
- Walker Center for Applied Ethics



Want to help students be prepared to become leaders for service to the world? Give now at marian.edu/give.

First-Year Students Call Caito-Wagner Residence Hall Home

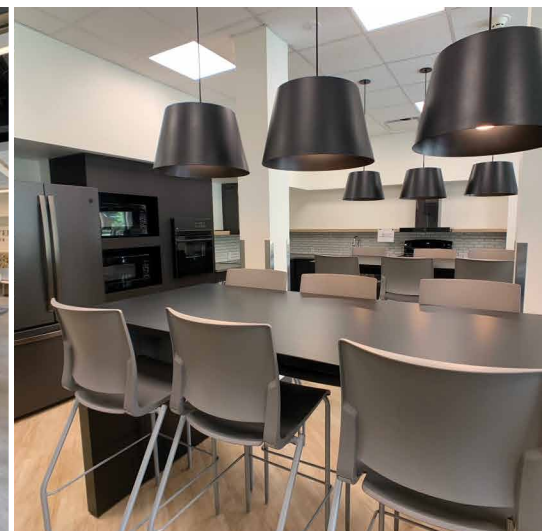
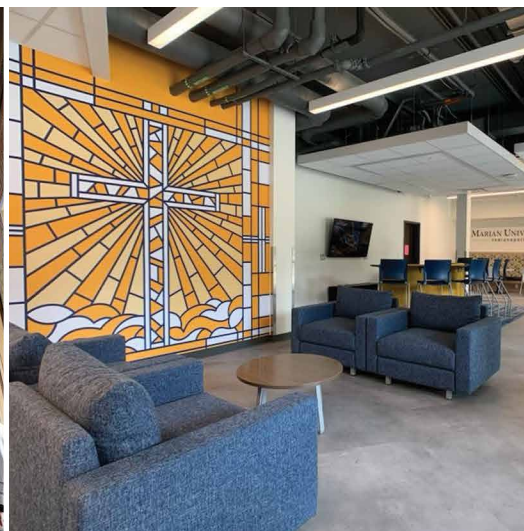
BY JEN HAIRE WANING '94
Senior Director of Alumni Engagement
Office of Institutional Advancement

On a gorgeous summer day in August, Marian University cut the ribbon on Caito-Wagner Hall, its newest residence hall. The residence hall includes St. Joseph Chapel, St. Francis Bell Tower, and the Anne Haire Memorial Garden. Thanks to the generosity of Phil and Brigitt Caito and their family, including Amanda Caito Wagner '95 and Kaitlin Caito Gondeck '14, Caito-Wagner Hall was opened as a state-of-the-art residence hall for first-year students.

The Marian community came together to worship in the beautiful St. Joseph Chapel with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson presiding and blessing the new sacred space. The bells were rung in the St. Francis Bell Tower, dedicated to the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana. The tower is the highest point at Marian and is a picturesque new addition to the campus.

The memorial garden, dedicated in honor of the late M. Anne Haire, is a wonderful space for memory making, prayer, comfort and reflection. We thank David Haire '71, and his family, including Greg '94 and Jen Haire '94 Waning, and Jordan Haire Lovik '08 for their generosity in creating this special space for all to enjoy. Caito-Wagner Hall, or CW as the students call it, has quickly become a favorite space to live, worship, gather, and celebrate.

The 57,000-square-foot residence hall houses 210 first-year students in 112 rooms. Amenities include a large kitchen on the first-floor, student lounges on each floor, and lots of really great spaces to sit, study, and hangout with friends.



2021 Rise Gala: Cheers to 20 Years

BY JACKIE KRETZ
Director of Advancement Communications
Office of Institutional Advancement



1: Emcee Rafael Sánchez of WRTV 6.
2: President Elsener with gala honorees Ken Tyrrell '73, Vicki Yamasaki, and Fritz French.
3: Anne Elsener, Ph.D. '01.
4: Shaquille Ash '18.
5: President and Mrs. Daniel J. Elsener.

More than 1,200 Marian University friends gathered at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis on October 29, 2021, for the annual Mary McNulty Young '47 Opportunities for Excellence Scholarship Dinner. The event raised \$2.5 million for student scholarships and honored outstanding community leaders Vicki Yamasaki, Fritz French, and Ken Tyrrell '73. Visit marian.edu/gala to see their tribute videos.



Long time Marian University fan Rafael Sánchez of WRTV 6 emceed the event, which featured Byrum School of Business and football alumnus, Shaquille Ash '18, and Anne Elsener, Ph.D. '01, President Daniel J. Elsener's oldest daughter, who graduated the same year her father became the eighth president of then Marian College.

In special celebration of his 20-year milestone, President Daniel J. and First Lady Beth Elsener were honored with contributions to two of their favorite funds: the Daniel J. and Beth Elsener Helping Hands Endowed Fund and the Elsener Family Endowed Scholarship. If you would like to show your appreciation with a commemorative gift in their honor, find these funds in the designation drop down box at marian.edu/give.



SAVE THE DATE
FOR THIS YEAR'S GALA
OCTOBER 28, 2022

Catch Up with Some Recent Grads

BY JENNY MORRIS '05
Executive Director, The Exchange

What do a human resources intern pursuing her bachelor's degree, an Ernst & Young employee living in New York, a first-year Orr Fellow, an e-commerce sales manager, and an Intensive Care Unit nurse have in common?

They are all recent Marian University graduates who are busy making their impact on the world.

We recently caught up with five alumni to inquire about their work and the impact Marian University had on their success.

Laura Cruz '23

AREA OF STUDY: Associate in Business Administration (2021); Bachelor in Business Management with a Concentration in Human Resources and a Minor in Spanish

CURRENTLY: Marian University Student, HR Intern for PRAXM Management

Laura Cruz, a member of the first graduating class of Marian University's Saint Joseph's College, completed an internship with a property management company while pursuing her associate's degree. Upon graduation, she used her internship experience to land a job as a leasing specialist at an apartment property with PRAXM Management. She was later able to convert her position into a human resources internship as she returned to Marian to complete her bachelor's. She's now pursuing a degree in management with a minor in Spanish and a concentration in human resources.



Max Ismoilov '21

AREA OF STUDY: Accounting, finance, business analytics

CURRENTLY: Assurance Staff at Ernst & Young, New York City, New York

Max Ismoilov was a 2021 accounting, finance, and business analytics graduate who accepted full-time employment as assurance staff at Ernst & Young in New York. As a student, he juggled internships, part-time jobs, and tennis, and he put everything he had into his goal of working in a multinational organization where his passion for traveling and learning about different cultures could be realized. Ismoilov expressed his gratitude to Marian—especially his professors and members of The Exchange.



“While professors at Marian University made sure we received the necessary skills, The Exchange played a huge role in the amount of confidence I had while searching for jobs, and once I received an offer, they were even happier than I was, which is a true characteristic of the whole Marian culture.”

– Max Ismoilov '21

Kayla Clark '21

AREA OF STUDY: Major in Communication, Concentration in Public Relations, Minors in Business and Writing

CURRENTLY: Brand Coordinator with NCW

Kayla (Fisher) Clark graduated in 2021 with a major in communication, a minor in business and writing, and a concentration in public relations. She was accepted into Orr Fellowship, a prestigious, two-year post-graduate program that places top-recruited college seniors into innovative Indianapolis companies. Clark's role as a brand coordinator on NCW's marketing team will allow her to rotate through marketing, recruiting, and sales, initially writing blogs, creating social media content, developing marketing materials, and building up NCW's public relations and brand as a whole.



When reflecting on her time at Marian, Clark shared, “I can say whole heartedly that I would not have been chosen as an Orr Fellow without the help of the staff in The Exchange. With only eight percent of applicants getting extended full-time offers through the Orr Fellowship, they gave me the upper hand. I am so grateful for all their help throughout my time at Marian and will always admire their passion for helping students.” Clark also expressed deep gratitude for the 21st Century Scholars Program, her on-campus employment opportunities with the Office of Marketing and Communications and the Office of Undergraduate Admission, and the faculty in the Department of Communication.

“It’s not the school that shaped me into who I am today, it’s the people. From the donors who helped fund the 21st Century Scholar Scholarship, to the faculty and staff, to the students as a whole, the people I met during my time at Marian are incredible, and I’m lucky to know them.”

– Kayla Clark '21

Kameron Utter '17

AREA OF STUDY: Psychology

CURRENTLY: E-Commerce Sales Manager at Quest Safety Products, Inc.

Kameron Utter is a 2017 graduate of Marian with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, and he’s already built up quite the resume, with an MBA to be added in just a few short weeks.

In 2016, as a junior psychology major, Utter was looking for a summer internship. He went to The Exchange for help and soon after became the first-ever intern for Quest Safety Products, a full-line manufacturer and distributor of personal protective equipment (PPE). His first assignment was to build a relationship between Marian University and Quest to develop an internship program. Since then, Quest has hired on average three interns a year and has become a business partner with Marian University’s Saint Joseph College’s “Earn and Learn” two-year program.

Utter, hired on full-time after graduation, now leads their e-commerce division (Quest’s largest sales channel), selling industrial safety products and PPE on third party marketplaces such as Amazon and Walmart.

“Marian University has provided me with the resources necessary to be successful.”

– Kameron Utter '17



Julia Stelts '21

AREA OF STUDY: Nursing and Spanish Majors; Global Studies Minor
CURRENTLY: Intensive Care Unit RN at Riverview Health in Noblesville

Julia Stelts is a 2021 Marian University graduate from the Leighton School of Nursing and a Spanish major in the College of Arts and Sciences. She made the connection to her current employer, Riverview Health, during The Exchange’s Nursing Roundtable event her sophomore year. During that event, she met with the nursing educator for Riverview, secured a CNA position shortly thereafter, fell in love with the small, local hospital, and upon graduation became the first new grad nurse to ever to be hired in Riverview’s Intensive Care Unit.



“I get to work with some of the smartest and hardest working nurses out there and am so grateful for the education and help I got to get here!”

– Julia Stelts '21

Jenny Morris '05 is the executive director of The Exchange, a team empowering students and alumni to explore and discern potential career paths and develop key skills critical to their long-term professional success. The Exchange was recently recognized as both a 2020-21 and 2021-22 Career Development College of Distinction.



THE EXCHANGE

EXPERIENCE THAT MATTERS



Did you get an exciting new job or promotion? Make a career change? Want to show the newest member of your family to the Marian University community? Did your wedding party or reception include Marian University alumni? If so, let us know by emailing alumni@marian.edu. It could be included in the next issue of the *Marian University Magazine*.

1961

Karl Hertz recently turned his life stories into a book.

Chau Thien Phan, Ph.D., received the Papal Medal of Merit "Benemerenti" from Bishop Felipe de Jesus Estevez, Bishop of St. Augustine, Florida for exceptional service to the Church by promoting Christian Unity first in Flagler County, Florida in 2007-17, and then among leaders of several Christian denominations in Florida by organizing the first-ever Ecumenical Vespers at the bishop level during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from 2014 to 2022.



1965

Chuck Federle and Pam Federle thoroughly enjoyed a vacation to Egypt and Jordan. Included in the 17-day trip was a camel ride in front of the Pyramids and a hot air balloon ride at the Valley of the Kings in Luxor.

1966

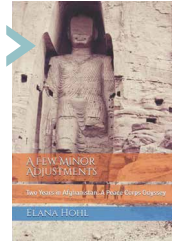
Mary Anne Barothy was featured by Hawthorne Publishing for her blog, Holiday Hollywood Splendor: Doris Day's Friends and Glorious Holiday Tree. She also shares her stories of being Doris Day's personal secretary in a recent interview. You can find it here: <https://youtu.be/f06s8HBZXAs>.

1971

Melvin Wilhelm was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash Award. He received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Marian and went on to law school. He was elected Franklin County prosecuting attorney for 40 years. He and his wife **Patricia Bird Wilhelm '72** met at Marian and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2021.



Elana Wiess Hohl has completed her book, *A Few Minor Adjustments: Two Years in Afghanistan: A Peace Corps Odyssey*, after years of encouragement by friends and family. The book can be purchased on Amazon and all proceeds of the book will be donated to support initiatives that benefit women and children in Afghanistan.



1972

Emmie R. Wilhelm Werner recently published children's devotional *KID CAN*. She is an elementary education graduate.



1973

Pat Murphy's grandson Deacon had a blast visiting the bookstore! He has a long legacy with mom **Anne Murphy Smith '09** and aunt **Brooke Meier Murphy '11** as alums, too.

1983

This group of Marian ladies get together annually for a Marian reunion. This year they are all celebrating "60" so they met for dinner on the northside of Indy. Pictured left to right are **Cathy Boyle Kervan, Linda Kuper Kristoff, Bobbie Jackson Williams, Brenda Burkhart Allspaw, and Carol Bates Peak**. Not able to make it were **Shirley Griner Maloney** and **Marylynn Tolin Subrin**. In 2022, they plan to gather in Amelia Island, Florida.



1984

Steve Spebar has been elected mayor of Whiting, Indiana.

1987

Julie Mathias Van Liew, current president of the Marian University Alumni Association (MUAA), enjoyed the Marian tree, "Knight of Knights" at the Festival of Trees.



1994

Jennifer Kirk Packwood was named a finalist for Kentucky 2021 Special Education Teacher of the Year.

Jen Haire Waning now serves as the senior director of alumni engagement at Marian University.

Ladies from the Class of 1994 gather each year to celebrate life-long friendship. From left to right are **Kerri Leffler, Sara Williams Mason, Judy Cenova, Kristin Barrette Horky, Bonnie Allison Hurst, and Sandy Volkman Eagle**.



Judy Cenova hosted several women's basketball and tennis alumni this summer from classes 1994-97. Left to right are **Julie Jones Rhodes '97, Lori James '96, Leslie Wade VanHoy '96, Judy Cenova '94, Sara Masters Hammel '95, and Natalie Jones Neiswonger '97**.



1999

Jessica Deckard Brown was elected president of the Yellow Trail Museum.

2000

Julie Goodspeed-Chadwick and her husband, Keith, welcomed their third child, Ruby, in July 2021. Julie was recently appointed IUPUI chancellor's professor of English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and she serves as the founder and director of the Office of Student Research at Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus.



2006

Megan Bottoms, Ed.D., completed her Doctorate in Higher Education Administration with a focus on organizational behavior from Indiana University Bloomington. Her dissertation was focused on chief diversity officers and their incorporation into the organizational structure of predominantly white institutions. Following that, she received tenure as an associate professor of leadership at Riverside City College in Riverside, California and an adjunct teaching position at Chapman University in their leadership studies program. She was also elected to serve a three-year term as president of the California Community College Student Affairs Association. She welcomed Liam to the world in August 2021 and is feeling beyond blessed!



2008

Edwin Ngaiza and **Michele Sizemore Ngaiza '09** celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary. They remember fondly the group of more than 30 Marian alums who attended the wedding. This anniversary photo taken on July 2, 2021 includes their children, Ezekiel and Eleazar.



2011

Jasmine Chivon Walker, M.D., MAT '11, received her Master of Public Health degree from Vanderbilt University with a concentration in

epidemiology on May 15, 2021. For her thesis, she investigated the "Early Impact of MISSION Act on Utilization of Veterans Affairs Transplant Centers," and she completed her practicum at the Vanderbilt Medical Center Tennessee Valley Health Care System. She will be staying at Vanderbilt to complete her general surgery residency and work as a resident physician.

Rachel Hawkins Zeigler received the Monna Linne Nurse of the Year award for Major Health Partners.

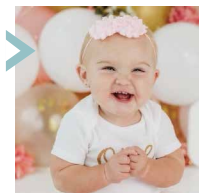
Joey Garcia now serves as the university minister for music and the arts at Marian University.

2013

Leintz Belony is the marketing and annual giving project manager at the Indiana University Foundation (IUF).

Michael Kubancsek and **Aubrey Schrader '16** were married in November 2020.

Trey and Molly Knight Pfund '14 welcomed Alma Grace (Gracie) Pfund on July 31, 2020.



Steve and Lauren Seculoff share the good news of the arrival of their third child, Marcie Anne, born in July 2021. Their oldest is Thomas Steven (3) and the middle is Nora Grace (1).



2014

Shannon Bauer has joined the Estate Planning and Administration practice group as an associate at Lavelle Law in Illinois.

Stephanie Torres and **Alex Cannon** were married in October in Anderson, Indiana. They currently reside in New York.

2015

It was an exciting year for **Coryn Rivera Labecki** as she married **Nick Labecki '16** and competed in the 2021 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, finishing seventh in the Women's Road Race. Knights on Bikes alums who helped coach at the Collegiate NTB Nationals were Nate Labecki '16, Coryn Rivera Labecki '15, Michael R. Kubancsek '13, Bailee Enlow '20, and John Hoopingartner '15.

2016

Amanda Scanameo now serves as university minister at Marian University.

Brandi Underwood and **Joe Barsanti '18** wrote and developed *Oak Island*, a brand new, full-length original musical. It debuted as a preview at the Indy Fringe Festival.

Will Hunker is now serving as the manager of athletic marketing at Marian University.

2017

Brenda Gutierrez-Escobar received the Special Education Educator Award for the Wayne Township schools at the Dare to Dream Awards.

2018

Felicia Stancil competed in the 2021 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, finishing fourth in Women's BMX.

Carolyn Swartz now serves as manager of athletic operations and promotions at Marian University.

Shaquille Ash spoke at the Marian University Rise Gala and is currently developing a mobile app to use at sporting events.

Several recent 21st Century Scholars volunteered to help interview the next round of scholars this past fall. They included **Jamonte Hampton '17**, **Austin Dwenger '18**, **Astynn Douglas '18**, **Alex Offutt '18**, **Josiah Johnson '18**, **Lil Dwenger '19**, **Katie Ernstberger '18**, **DeeDee Moore '18**, **Lorena Ochoa '17**, **Ana Kirby '17**, and **Kayla Wilder '14**.

2019

Daniela Alaniz now serves as a recruiter for the Latino Leadership Initiative at Marian University.

Jonas Smith completed the Cornell University Diversity and Inclusion Certificate and was selected to serve as a member of Regenstrief Institute's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council.

2020

Allison Hering has accepted a position as social media manager for the Office of Marketing and Communications. She is also finishing up her master's degree in business administration with a concentration in leadership at Anderson University and will graduate in May 2022.

Ally Laake has joined the Office of Undergraduate Admission as a regional admission counselor at Marian University.

2021

Linnny Rousseau now serves at the assistant director of alumni engagement at Marian University.

Alana Wilson now serves as a freshman admission counselor at Marian University.



2021

Sr. M. Marta Aiken, OSF '47 – March 29
 Mary A. McNulty Young '47 – December 28
 Jane E. Gaughan O'Malia '48 – July 11
 Barbara K. Allen Dennin '50 – February 4
 Mary C. McCarthy Felts '50 – October 12
 Marta K. Kilczer Blades '53 – June 6
 Carole Y. Ferguson Finnell '59 – April 12
 David N. Rihm '59 – June 17
 Nora J. Cummings '61 – February 23
 Patricia Passehl Mag '61 – September 21
 Judith A. Rathz Sonderman '61 – March 14
 Janice Marie McCracken Burger '62
 – September 7
 Barbara Russell '62 – March 13
 Deanna K. Metzner Ziegler '62 – May 27

Anna Ottilie Krebs Fabricatore '63 – October 6
 Loretta M. Staab Sahn '63 – February 6
 Carolyn S. Leslie '64 – April 29
 Carol A. Downton '65 – February 7
 James Durbin '65 – April 3
 Frank C. Velikan '65 – March 17
 Mauna Rae Butsch Brickler '66 – May 14
 James R. Chase '67 – December 13
 Providence Tantillo Chase '67 – September 2
 Shea Wilson Smith '68 – October 21
 Leonard A. Strom '68 – July 17
 Maryellen Finn Bein '69 – February 10
 Paul R. Meyers '69 – May 15
 Joyce A. Leugers Collier '71 – May 7

Kathleen A. Schlomer Segrist '71 – December 4
 William M. Mullins '72 – February 9
 Elizabeth A. Smith Monhaut Ledsome '73
 – February 20
 Jeffrey L. Jordan '75 – December 16
 Susan DeMotte Head '76 – June 24
 Elaine M. Watson '76 – July 12
 Beryl Wolma Crismore '80 – April 10
 Judith A. Lantz '84 – August 12
 Jeffrey Johns '89 – November 16
 Michelle A. Poynter Jeschke '91 – May 7
 Jeff Lyons '92 – November 17
 David N. Case '10 – April 17
 Quintina Rose Kelley Teipen '12 – August 1

HERITAGE OF ST. FRANCIS SOCIETY



You have one life...

MAKE IT COUNT! You plan your work week. You plan vacations. You may plan meals. And, of course, you plan for retirement. But, if you believe in a better and stronger tomorrow for the people and causes you care most about, you should probably have a plan for that as well.

If you find yourself wondering about what your legacy will be, then let us help you understand some of your options. Whatever your age or income, there are planned giving options you can consider today that can absolutely have a powerful impact on tomorrow.

It's easier than you think. Contact John Finke, vice president for institutional advancement, at jfinke@marian.edu for more information on how to join the ranks of other Heritage of St. Francis Society members who have made the Marian University mission a part of their legacy.

“A planned gift is just an extension of the giving we've done through the years. It is one last time to share what we have and to show our appreciation. It doesn't have to be a large gift to help others have a better life.”



Dan and Nancy Morales '76 Krodel

Dear Fellow Knights,

In 2021, I decided to do the One Word Challenge, choosing a word to help focus my year. My word for 2021 was **JOY** and, despite all the things going on in the world, it was still easy to find many things that brought great **JOY**, personally and professionally. A new job, a record-breaking incoming freshman class, the opening of the state-of-the-art Caito-Wagner Hall, the milestone of President Daniel J. Elsener's 20th year, in-person classes and events, and so much more. My word for 2022 is **GRATITUDE!** As the year begins to take shape, I know that this word will keep me grounded in the good, thankful for **ALL** of our blessings, and will help me stay focused on what is truly important.

When I started as senior director of alumni engagement almost nine months ago, I promised three things: *to listen, to pray, and to ask.* I continue that promise as we head into the new year and want to share with you some of the exciting things happening on Marian University's beautiful campus. These are only a few of the exciting things we have in store this year, so be sure to check our calendar for all the latest!

- **Save the Date for Homecoming and Family Weekend** on September 30 and October 1. Combining our efforts into one amazing weekend for all our Marian families will be a great celebration that you won't want to miss. For graduation class years ending in the 2s and 7s, 2022 is your milestone year. You will be hearing from us soon to start planning!
- Our Marian University Alumni Association (MUAA) is formalizing and expanding to include many different affinity groups. We would love for you to join us, get reconnected, and find ways that we can help you and you can help our students. We love when our alumni can feed their passions and volunteer at the same time. We want to help you do just that, so please reach out for more information.

- Linny Rousseau '21 has joined our team as the assistant director of alumni engagement and has been invaluable since day one.
- Our **Day for the Knights** is coming up on Thursday, April 7. We hope you can join our efforts as we celebrate being a Knight.
- We have incredibly exciting news about a new **HOME** for our alumni that will be a game changer in our alumni efforts! More information to share in the coming months, so be on the lookout for an announcement.

As always, I am grateful for you. Our alumni are the heart of Marian, and you are **ALWAYS** welcome. Please reach out if you would like a tour, if you are on campus, or if you just want an update on all the incredible things happening at Marian. It is always a great day to be a Knight, and the future is full of endless possibilities. The best is yet to come. Go, Knights! #ForeverAKnight

Peace and All Good,

Jen Haire Waning '94
Senior Director of
Alumni Engagement



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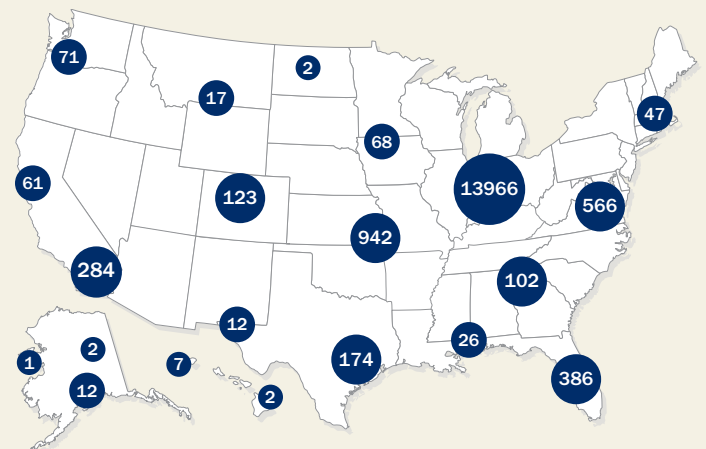
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REUKNIGHTED



Check out ReuKNIGHTed at alumni.marian.edu.





Are you the parent or family member of a Marian University undergraduate student? Stay informed about campus events, important deadlines, and how to best support your students through the Marian University Family Portal. Sign-up today at marian.edu/families.



Do you know someone who would be a great fit at Marian?

Tell them what an excellent education they can receive at Marian University and how much fun they will have. Then, have them go to marian.edu/visit to learn more.

