Coming Soon.

Caito-Wagner Hall is a 57,000 square-foot facility that will house 210 shutters in 112 rooms when it opens in August 2021. It will include a bell tower dedicated to the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana—Marian’s founder and sponsor—that will be the highest point of elevation on campus.

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Marian University of Indianapolis, Indiana, publishes the Marian University Magazine two times a year.
We welcome readers’ comments.
Opinions expressed in the Marian University Magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of Marian University or the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana.

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Dear Marian University Community,

In our modern, fast-paced world, where a click of a button or a command to Alexa controls anything from what you’re streaming on television to the grocery delivery headed right to your front door, trustworthy and innovative leaders are needed more than ever. In this issue of the Marian University Magazine, I am pleased to show how our students, graduates, faculty, and staff are not only keeping up, but are paving the way. That are they: Generation: Lead.

Our Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD alumni) are making their mark in dramatic ways. Richard El ’10, Michael Barton ’13, Amber Ferrari ’11, and Ethan Hoffman ’18 are four of these GOLD alumni you’ll be reading about on pages 4-7, whose achievements through their academic efforts and leadership will most certainly make a difference with their lives by serving others are examples we should all strive to follow.

Marian University is a laboratory of leadership development. Our transformational leadership vision is palpable in every corner of Marian’s campus through our aggressive efforts to invest in faculty, staff, programs, and spaces that exemplify the vision, as highlighted on pages 10-11.

Our students, graduates, faculty, and staff are not only keeping up, but are paving the way. They are Generation: Lead.

SOCIAL CONNECTION

Becky Kuhlman Hiett ’16: Dr. George LaMaster and Dr. Bessie Rigakos played such instrumental roles in my college career, I was academically challenged and had great faculty support and guidance to achieve more than I ever thought possible for myself. Their support has continued beyond graduation and those lasting connections are truly something I cherish as an alumna.

Madison McKinney ’16: Dr. Kim Vogt! She went above and beyond in helping me to achieve my dream of becoming a veterinarian. She was with me every step of the way during the admissions process, guiding me and pushing me to do my best. I truly don’t think I’d be here attending Purdue’s School of Veterinary Medicine without her.

Sierra Siembrakel ’11: Dean Pooler and I wouldn’t be anywhere I am now without his strategic vision and end of my freshman year talk to quit, both academics and the cycling team. Beyond that I didn’t really have a plan because I was moving back home, two states away. Over the summer, he became the new cycling coach at Marian. We connected on a level that I really needed in my life at that time, and he convinced me to stay. He helped me find my way and build my career in teaching, which is exactly where I’m meant to be. I also developed as a cyclist. With his guidance, I went from over weight to being able to hang with the bike forevers to national champion in both individual and team events. Now, in my 10th year of teaching, mostly in Indianapolis Public Schools, after I got my start at the Jackson Center for Conductive Education, a small nonprofit center for children and adults with motor disabilities in Minnesota, I still ride bikes. I went on to complete several elite-level races even after I ended my need to continue cycling. Many years, podiums, tough conversations, tears, laughs, and hugs later, I’m forever grateful to Marian and Dean Pooler and to this day, I think of him as a friend. Proud to be a #KnightsonBikes and School of Ed alumna!

Robert Geis ’05: Dr. William Mimsa believed in me when I had failed. I loved sociology because of the way he taught with passion and theory.

Theresa Beam Roberts ’16: Dr. Andy Holman encouraged me from the beginning of my journey on Marian’s campus and after I graduated. He believed in me. Luckily, I didn’t. Practiced patients for me while I started, stopped, and started again! Several elite-level races every year, as I pursued a degree in Pastoral Leadership, I learned a lot from Andy and Donna Proctor and use it up today. I am grateful that I can still seek advice from Andy and enjoy seeing their continued ministry of teaching at Marian.

Bill Sanfrancis ’13: Dr. Monica Zioza. She challenged me to push myself to understand the “why” in mathematics. Then as I came to decide to become a math teacher, she taught me how to show grace in the classroom when mathematics got more difficult. She was always positive even when I wanted to give up and walk away. The way she taught her lessons accurately and the way she taught the grace in the classroom are mirrored in my math classroom today.

Lauren McCluskey ’20: Professor Cecakes, Professor Tucker, Professor Obernig at Iroquois Springs. I cannot say enough positive words about these amazing women. Not only did they teach me so much about the nursing profession, but they have encouraged me and pushed me to be a better person and future nurse. The nursing school is lucky to have them!

As we enter 2021, I challenge you to lead. How can you make a difference? God bless you, your family and friends, and the many endeavors to which you are dedicated, always!

Go Knight!

Dan Elebrer
President

Marian University Magazine | Winter 2020-21

@marianuniversity @marianuniv @marianuniversity

One of the characteristics that makes Marian University distinctive is the dedication and support students receive from faculty and staff. On Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, and in our community which faculty or staff member played a big role in their success. Here are some of the shared stories of how faculty and staff have impacted our students’ lives.

Becky Kuhlman Hiett ’16: Dr. George LaMaster and Dr. Bessie Rigakos played such instrumental roles in my college career, I was academically challenged and had great faculty support and guidance to achieve more than I ever thought possible for myself. Their support has continued beyond graduation and those lasting connections are truly something I cherish as an alumna.

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Keyla Bledsoe ’20: Kaylin Miller the director of 21st Century Scholars and Davyel Hall the Director of the Unity Center have provided me so many opportunities to prepare for life after college. They constantly inspire me to be a better student and to advocate for myself and others. Dr. Rigakos has literally changed my life (by helping me change my major) and is consistently there to assist me academically or emotionally I even got to meet some of her family while I was studying abroad and it helped me feel like I was home, even for just a couple of days. If she could be my professor forever, I would go to school for that many years.

Hadley Hawkins ’22: Dr. Kyle & Dene Stewart are not only great professors, but great coaches and mentors, too! Their understanding and support this semester and last year has been appreciated more than they could ever understand. They really have pushed me. If I could do this all day because my parents couldn’t get there until 4 hours later - now that is respect and dignity.

Elizabeth Thomp ’16: Professor Tim Akin and Kevin Huston. Professor Akin was amazing and extremely helpful and helped me develop a love for accounting from his enthusiasm and love for it! Professor Huston helped me get all of my internships and ultimately helped land me a job at a Big Four CPA firm. At that time EY and other big four firms didn’t really interview at Marian or consider us worth their time for interviewing because we were so small, but they still had some position openings for the following winter after Scott Bruna (now the Indianapolis office manager for EY) graduated. But that time EY was a different firm at the time). EY was more than I could ever imagine coming from my small hometown, and has been a blessing to my family for everything they did for us and to help land me at my current position. I will forever be grateful to Marian University and my education and Professor Akin and Professor Huston for their mentorship and guidance, as well as EY for providing me with a bright future! Soon after I joined EY, Scott got promoted to partner and made it a priority to recruit at our alma mater and since then, EY consistently hires students from Marian every year! I was the first person hired by EY after Scott 12 years later was hired!”

Catherine Schmidt Sartino ’19: Dr. Kim Vogt and Dr. Bessie Rigakos, both were my academic advisors for biology and sociology. They were both one of the reasons I transferred to MU, which was the best decision I had ever made. Dr. Rigakos and Dr. Vogt pushed me to be the best and even helped me get into their office for the master’s degree program. I am so thankful for their mentorship and friendship and I cannot thank them enough for all that they have done for me!

Frances Samarripa ’18: Mark Latta really supported my writing and made me feel empowered in both our class discussions and in his critiques of my written work. Mark also connected me to the Holy Family Shelter where I went on to volunteer art services for a year prior to opening my community art studio. Without that volunteer experience I’m not sure my business would be here today, I will always be grateful to him for opening that door for me.

As we enter 2021, I challenge you to lead. How can you make a difference? God bless you, your family and friends, and the many endeavors to which you are dedicated, always!

Go Knight!

Dan Elebrer
President

#marianuniversity #marianuniv #marianuniversity
Ethan Hoffman's “18 strikes a joke during his algebra class, getting five laughs in the back of the room. "Proud, Hoffman knows this means his students are not only enjoying the lesson, but they are gaining a deeper understanding of the English language.

The first languages of the students in Hoffman's algebra and pre-algebra classrooms range from Spanish, to Swahili, to French, and more. Hoffman is an instructor in Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) Newcomer Program, which was initiated in 2016 to better serve immigrant and refugee students in the community.

"There are a lot of ESL (English as a Second Language) students in the district and serving those students who are newest to the country can be difficult, especially in a traditional setting, so starting a new program for them to gain academic and English language skills, “Hoffman said.

Since graduating, Hoffman has taught at the Newcomer Program and very quickly earned high honors for his tremendous work. In 2019, Hoffman was named IPS Teacher of the Year. "It was meaningful because the people who see your work recognize it. It was very encouraging. Since then, I've tried to grow and represent what IPS strives to do for their students," Hoffman said.

Hoffman devotes much of his time outside of the classroom preparing for lessons and providing additional support for his students. "One interesting thing about our school is that you can have all of the preparation that you would in a traditional setting, but you want to also create a lot of visuals and additional support on top of that," Hoffman said. "Ensuring that my students are going to have predictable structure in their lessons is important. It really helps them feel successful and comfortable because of the changes they are experiencing."

Hoffman was one of the inaugural hires for the Newcomer Program. Over the course of four years, he's challenged himself to grow in the areas that feel least natural to him. "Initially as a teacher, you pick out the things that align to your strengths or personality best. That's great, but over time you are able to critique your performance even more," Hoffman said.

"For a while it was thinking of what a teacher would do, but now it's morphed from not just what a teacher would do, but what my students need," Hoffman said. "Not in his classroom for one year before transitioning to traditional schools in IPS, Hoffman's greatest hope for his students is that they become advocates for themselves. "My hope is that they take advantage of opportunities that are before them. I hope they choose to serve their communities--whether it be their families, friends, or whatever group is around them." Hoffman said. "There's a lot of joy in seeing kids' confidence and excitement about learning grow. I think I find purpose creating growth in their lives, and then they begin to push themselves further. That keeps me going."

I know the tech industry existed, but I didn't know it was the place for me. You can be successful and be honest with them. "Wit, emotional intelligence, and communication skills got me a long way."

"I pulsed my first all-night the night we launched. I think you have to try so much in startups and see what didn't work and what really did. It's cool to look back and say look what we've built," Ferrari said.

"I have a wife, and the five-member team grew to nearly 400. In her present role on Jobvite's marketing, Ferrari is responsible for partner marketing, Ferrari credits learning to be agile, adaptable, and open to feedback to her quick success, and she advised current students to find a mentor who can be honest with them.

"Go straight to The Exchange or your advisor. It's important to have self-awareness to see how you best operate," Ferrari said.

Currently, Ferrari serves on Marian University's 25 Class of 2019. The 25 winners had been nominated for their incredible impact and commitment to propelling their fast-paced businesses forward. Marian University Graduate of the Last Decade, Amber Ferrari '15, was among those recognized.

Though Ferrari walked across Marian's stage at graduation just five years ago, her tech industry chops and mastery of the competitive field is nothing short of extensive. Currently, Ferrari is manager of communications and sales support for Jobvite, a full-scale, global talent acquisition suite. While her work brings her to Monument Circle each day, St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic School, then located on the west side of Indianapolis, is where her roots began. "I'd say I was a very precocious child, very interested in reading, and language, and leading," Ferrari said. "I'd be like Hey, do this, here are the rules."

"I pull my first all-night the night we launched. I think you have to try so much in startups and see what didn't work and what really did. It's cool to look back and say look what we've built," Ferrari said.

For the next two years, Ferrari worked at the start-up company, Pactology, a clickwrap agreement management and esignature platform—her first steps in the Indy tech scene. "I am a profit of all my experience there," Ferrari said. "I had to learn how to do every aspect of digital marketing, from search engine optimization, to building website pages, to building landing pages, building campaigns, building automated messaging, email campaigns, building lists, and sales development."

Next, Ferrari moved to Canvas, the world’s first text-based interviewing platform. Another startup, she was team member number five and hired just before its launch. "I pulsed my first all-night the night we launched. I think you have to try so much in startups and see what didn't work and what really did. It's cool to look back and say look what we've built," Ferrari said.

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In just 18 months, Canvas was acquired by Jobvite, and the five-member team grew to nearly 400. In her present role on Jobvite’s communications, brand, and strategy team within marketing, Ferrari is responsible for partner marketing, PR efforts, social strategy, employment branding, and supporting speaking engagements.
I
n 2007, Richard El ‘10 was recruited by Marian University to play football. During his time with the football program, he became a student assistant, graduate assistant, and later a coach. While becoming a football coach was what he initially pursued, growing up, El always had an interest in law enforcement.

Being in crisis intervention, as most IMPD officers are, he knew the importance of having a calming presence, being patient, positive, and coming to the child’s eye level. This helped the child to calm down while waiting for his father to get there.

While serving the community, a picture of El went viral after a photo was snapped of him calming an autistic child, which El pointed out was an important part of the job that often gets overlooked.

“I was doing my everyday job and another officer had located a parent who stated that their child had runaway and he has autism,” El said. “The officer requested another officer in the area to come help look for the child. I was in the area, so I diverted off the run I was on to help look for the child, and I located him at Garfield Park on the south side of Indianapolis. I just sat with him, talked with him, and comforted him until we were able to reunite him with his parents. That’s similar to what all police officers would have done. In our job, a lot of times, our job is to get out into the community and make sure we’re being good stewards and represent our departments and families in a good way; lead by example.”

The documented act of service and kindness that El showed in the viral photo pointed out that responding to crime is not the only side of the job. Officers are also building relationships and responding to all needs of communities. El believes some of the important skills he carries with him each day he gained while at Marian.

“I’ve taken a lot from what I’ve learned from Marian, and I’m applying that now to my everyday life as a law enforcement officer, a father, and a servant to the community,” El said.

As a role model for children and young adults, El believes that police officers need to set a positive example by interacting and supporting the community.

“We have young kids that look up to us and aspire to be like us, so we have to lead by example,” El said. “We have to lead by positive example for not only the young kids, but the young adults who are trying to find their way. We have to get out into the community and make sure we’re being good stewards and represent our departments and families in a good way; lead by example.”

M ichael Barton ‘14 is audit manager at Petrow Kani Leemhuis, PC, a local certified public accounting firm on the north side of Indianapolis, where he provides audit and attestation services to non-profits and privately held businesses. He’s also the chair of the Indiana Board of Accountancy—the youngest chair in the world.

Just three years after graduating, Barton was appointed to the Indiana Board of Accountancy by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb. Quickly after, he earned his seat as chair.

“It’s a great honor for me, but more importantly for everyone,” Barton said. “I also knew it would be good for Marian University and the Byrum School of Business. We have so many CPAs and other accountants in the great state of Indiana, so to have this opportunity to represent them is truly a humbling honor.”

In 2019, Barton received the Indiana CPA Society (ICPAS) Advocacy Award. Each year, the award is presented to an Indiana CPA who has demonstrated excellence in serving the profession, public interest, company, and community.

As a student at Marian University, Barton’s path to following accounting began with his advisor and mentor Kevin Huston, professor emeritus of accounting and finance, who along with Tim Akin, professor emeritus of accounting and finance, fueled his love for accounting.

“Kevin Huston was a really good advisor and mentor,” Barton said. “He’s the one that got me into accounting, and I don’t know what I’d be doing today without him taking me into it. I’d probably be a salesman somewhere. Kevin Huston and Tim Akin helped me fall in love with the accounting profession.”

Barton believes being an athlete on Marian’s men’s basketball team and a student in the Byrum School of Business encouraged him to establish connections and create a dialogue with new people, no matter the challenge.

“On the court and in the classroom, I think that Marian has you work as a team. I think Marian does a great job of teaching you how to learn quickly on your feet.”

On the court and in the classroom, Barton was able to translate his experience working, engaging, and collaborating in teams to the workforce.

“I think that Marian has you work as a team and figure it out. That’s the real world. Those successful companies are one true team, and Marian emphasizes that in the classroom and in athletics,” Barton said. As Indianapolis and Marian continue to grow, Barton sees many alumni from the Byrum School of Business setting into leadership positions in the city.
Our 2019-20 seniors have recently made the same transition from students to young professionals and become our newest Graduates of the Last Decade. Their strength in overcoming challenges has already proven them to be innovative leaders.

Max Ismoilov ’20 is no stranger to picking up and starting anew. His Marian University experience began as a transfer student in 2017 when he started his career as a collegiate tennis player and double major in accounting and finance.

“Playing tennis in college was a dream come true. I love to play tennis. I loved going out and representing Marian,” Ismoilov said.

Transferring into Marian was by far an easier adjustment than the one he had gone through two years prior. Ismoilov is a native of Uzbekistan.

“The adjustment of coming to America was huge,” Ismoilov said. Outside of tennis, Ismoilov found a home at Marian through the Byrum School of Business.

“My favorite part of being at Marian was the faculty and staff. They care about you so much. It feels like family here, you don’t have to look for help, the help looks for you,” Ismoilov said.

Ismoilov was the vice president of the Alpha Delta Gamma national fraternity on campus and was the presidencial ambassador for the Byrum School of Business. The leadership skills he’s honed through these experiences earned him an internship at the worldwide accounting firm EY.

“I am very proud to say that I am a graduate of Marian University and have been given the opportunity to intern at EY,” Ismoilov said.

Maresa Kelly, a December 2019 graduate of Marian University, grew up in New Albany, Indiana, where she was born and raised Catholic. Her faith led her to apply to Catholic schools near and far, ultimately choosing Marian.

“During my second year at Marian, I found Marian University Speech and Debate here on campus,” Kelly said. “The communication program at Marian and the speech and debate team became my family and made Marian my home away from home.”

With a global studies minor, Kelly embarked on two study abroad trips. The first was to Guatemala for a mission trip. The second trip was to Brazil, where she and four other Marian students studied the media’s impact on beauty and how that relates to the standard of beauty in Brazilian culture.

After completing the competitive application and interview process, Kelly was selected as an On Fellow.

Kelly now works for for TMAP, an Indianapolis-based talent acquisition company geared towards bringing qualified talent into Indianapolis area organizations.

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Josh Christian ’20 began college at Saint Joseph’s College in Rensselaer, Indiana. After the school suspended operations, Christian was one of 80 students who transferred to Marian in 2017. Like those 80 students, Christian was eager to finish his college career at Marian.

Christian grew up in the foster care system, living in 18 different foster care homes in 18 years. Despite those challenges, he has been able to use his experience as a tool to advocate for foster youth.

One of his largest accomplishments has been his work that helped create the Foster Parent Bill of Rights and pass legislation which extends foster care services until the age of 23 in Indiana. For his work, Christian received the Adoption Excellence Award in Washington, D.C., in November 2018.

Christian has continued his work with foster youth upon graduation.

“I loved my time at Saint Joseph’s College and with Marian bringing Saint Joe Indy to campus, I have been able to work as an intern to help foster youth enrolled at Saint Joe Indy.”

— Josh Christian ’20

Htoo Thu ’20 was born in Burma and moved to Indianapolis eight years ago. Thu’s family moved to the United States as she was beginning the eighth grade at St. Mark’s Catholic School. Thu continued her Catholic education at Roncalli High School.

“In 2016, I was given the Spirit of Service Youth Award from Catholic Charities Indianapolis,” Thu said. “I knew that I wanted to continue to do service in college, and staying close to home at Marian made sense for me.”

As a Marian student, Thu was able to travel the world while studying in the biology program in preparation for medical school.

“In 2018, I was able to study abroad in Chile. This was a great opportunity for me because I was able to use both my major and minor while on the trip,” Thu said. “I shadowed many different doctors, nurses, and physical therapists while being able to immerse myself in the Spanish language.”

In 2019, Thu was able to travel abroad for a second time. Thu was the first person in her family to return to Burma since moving to the United States.

“I had the opportunity to see family and friends that I haven’t seen in eight years. During that time, I was able to learn the healthcare services in Burma. I hope this experience helps me in my future because I want to work with Burmese refugees and Hispanic communities,” Thu said.

After her two trips abroad, Thu became a citizen of the United States and is planning on pursuing higher education in the medical field.

“During my second year at Marian, I found Marian University Speech and Debate here on campus,” Kelly said. “The communication program at Marian and the speech and debate team became my family and made Marian my home away from home.”

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Christian grew up in the foster care system, living in 18 different foster care homes in 18 years. Despite those challenges, he has been able to use his experience as a tool to advocate for foster youth.

One of his largest accomplishments has been his work that helped create the Foster Parent Bill of Rights and pass legislation which extends foster care services until the age of 23 in Indiana. For his work, Christian received the Adoption Excellence Award in Washington, D.C., in November 2018.

Christian has continued his work with foster youth upon graduation.

“I loved my time at Saint Joseph’s College and with Marian bringing Saint Joe Indy to campus, I have been able to work as an intern to help foster youth enrolled at Saint Joe Indy.”

— Josh Christian ’20
Byrum School of Business

Goal: To succeed in today’s competitive and dynamic environment, top employers want talented college graduates with broad knowledge and experience coupled with key skills in critical thinking, collaboration, and communication. The Byrum School of Business’ goal is for students to build those skills and more from day one.

Meet the Lead

Greg Rawski, Ph.D.
Dean of the Byrum School of Business

Greg Rawski, Ph.D., is responsible for enhancing the quality of, and advocating for, the Byrum School of Business, including growing enrollment; building new academic programs; ensuring strong management and oversight of existing academic programs; effectively managing budgets; and strengthening external partnerships.

It goes beyond teaching excellence here, it’s about changing our students’ lives. I think our faculty have big hearts. They are having conversations with students inside and outside of the classroom, mentoring them, advising them. It’s like an academic family. That’s a distinctive marker of our school.”

— Greg Rawski, Ph.D.

To learn more, visit marian.edu/bsob.

Latin@ Leadership

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

Meet the Lead

Manuela Higgins
Executive Director
Latin@ Leadership

In her role as executive director of Latin@ leadership, Manuela Higgins is responsible for systematically forming strategic community partnerships, creating intercultural engagement, recruiting students, and promoting Latin@ student success.

We want to position Marian University as a Hispanic-serving institution locally and nationally and guide students through the entire process. My goal is for every Latino student enrolled at Marian to feel welcome and at home, no matter the difference of culture. I want them to be able to find the help they need.”

— Manuela Higgins

To learn more, visit marian.edu/latin@.

Walker Center for Applied Ethics

Goal: The mission of the Walker Center for Applied Ethics is to advance a more ethical world by improving and evolving the interdisciplinary teaching of ethics and by bridging the gap between research and organizational best practices. Areas of focus include research, certificate programs for ethics professionals, and a nationally recognized speaker series. The initiative was made possible by a lead gift from Frank D. Walker, chairman emeritus of Walker Information, and the Walker Family Foundation.

Meet the Lead

Liz Coit
Executive Director
Walker Center for Applied Ethics

Liz Coit oversees and directs all of the Walker Center’s operations while collaborating with the Walker Center Board of Visitors, Marian faculty, Indiana business leaders, and other stakeholders to design and implement a long-term strategy to advance the Walker Center’s mission.

We want to change the way leaders are behaving. We have a real opportunity to make a difference in the business community and to expand Marian’s brand regionally and nationally.”

— Liz Coit

To learn more, visit marian.edu/walkercenter.
How a Marian University Doctor Found a Medical Mystery in Michelangelo’s ‘David’

The Indianapolis Star | January 15, 2020

While art historians have studied Michelangelo’s “David” for centuries, it took the eye of a Marian University cardiologist to see something no one else appears to have recorded about the iconic marble sculpture.

Dr. Daniel Gelfman himself had never recognized this feature in photos he saw of the “David,” but when he viewed the artwork in person during a visit to Florence in 2018, he noticed a bulging vein on the right side of the biblical hero’s neck. If a person showed up in his exam room with such a vein, Gelfman would immediately think the patient had significant heart disease.

This observation was so striking that Gelfman wrote an article, which appeared online last month in JAMA Cardiology.

The Students Are Real

Indiana Classroom — and Pretend

Chalkbeat | February 11, 2020

The Marian students are getting an early start on learning how to run a classroom, rather than waiting until their junior or senior year to student teach real-life children. The university’s new and unusual approach is part of a retooled program for training teachers, one that focuses on constant practice and immediate feedback.

The mixed-reality program is run using both computer programming and practice and immediate feedback.

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Step into This State-of-the-Art Indiana Classroom — and Pretend the Students Are Real

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Twin Sisters Talk About Working as ER Nurses in the COVID-19 Fight

WTHR | April 24, 2020

“‘We’re so similar,’” said Kelli Lyon, speaking about her identical twin sister Kerri Lyon.

Their looks are just the beginning of what these sisters [and Marian University graduates] share.

It’s at work where the 31-year-old sisters are sharing one of the biggest challenges of their careers, working on the front lines of helping COVID-19 patients.

Both work the same shift as ER nurses at Community Hospital North and have seen their share of sick people.

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Marian University to Launch New Tech Designed to Help Fight Coronavirus

WISH-TV | July 30, 2020

Marian University is preparing to launch new technology designed to help control the spread of the coronavirus on campus.

The technology is a new feature on the CampusShield app. It’s a COVID-19 self-assessment where users answer a couple quick questions about exposure and symptoms. It takes just seconds to finish. If someone answers “no” to the COVID questions, a green badge will pop up with a 24-hour timer. Users can think of it like an on-campus key.

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The mixed-reality program is run using both computer programming and simulation specialists, who is watching and can turn up or dial back the avatars’ classroom behavior.

Marian, Ancilla Announce Partnership

Inside Indiana Business | August 28, 2020

Marian University in Indianapolis and Ancilla College in Marshall County have formed a partnership they say will strengthen Catholic higher education and lead to more course offerings. The boards of trustees from both schools have approved the agreement, which creates a new entity known as Ancilla College of Marian University beginning in July 2021.

"This strategic approach includes a long-range goal: to secure more opportunities for Ancilla alumni, current students and those in our local surrounding counties who seek further education in the region," said Ancilla College President Michele Dverak. "Education rooted in values will be a beacon of light and hope for the future. We believe Marian University commits to not only the mission, but also to fulfilling the mutual goal of advanced academic opportunities."

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After Beating Cancer, 19-Year-Old Enrolls in Nursing School to Help Kids Battling Illness

The Indianapolis Star | October 22, 2020

The lump in the side of Jade’s neck was soon diagnosed as metastatic papillary thyroid cancer. The cancer had spread from the 9-year-old’s thyroid to her lymph nodes and into her lungs, scattering between 50 and 100 tiny tumors throughout her upper body.

But that was almost 10 years ago.

Jade, now 19 years old, has since gone through surgery and radioactive iodine treatment, and successfully sent the cancer into remission within a few months of her diagnosis. Now, she’s a freshman at Marian University, where she studies nursing in hopes of one day working as an operating nurse at Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital at Ascension St. Vincent, where she spent so much time as a fourth-grader.

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2020 Women of Influence: LaTonya Turner

Indianapolis Business Journal | October 28, 2020

Turner is the first African American woman to serve as a dean at Marian University. During Marian’s last academic year, she co-shared its provost search committee and worked with the Klipsch College faculty and staff to transform its recruitment and development of students.

Colleagues describe Turner as selfless and say she treats others with respect. Those are qualities Turner has tried to demonstrate in her life and career. “People who met me 20 years ago, I believe, would attest that I am consistently the person I was then...My objective is that all who know me will find that I have compassion and empathy for everyone. My major accomplishment is being a consistently good human.”

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In recent years, Marian University has embarked on several initiatives to help close the opportunity gap that exists in our society. Community leaders agree that Marian is helping students, businesses, and the community thrive.

 Forgging Leaders initiatives include:

- Scholarships and Growing the Endowment
- Sisters’ Legacy Fund
- Enhance Facilities
- Fred S. Klipsch Educators College
- Latin@ Initiative

Learn more at marian.edu/forgingleaders.

Our young Latinos are hungry for success and for opportunities to be great members of our community, contributing and giving back. Marian University is playing a big role in giving those opportunities to our young Latinos.”

— Marlene Dotson
President and Chief Executive Officer
Indiana Latino Institute

When I look at students who are attending Saint Joseph’s College of Marian University - Indianapolis, I see that they reflect the Indianapolis community. We would like our workforce to reflect our community.”

— Fio Gambetta-Gibson
Director of Diversity and Inclusion
Allison Transmission

The Fred S. Klipsch Educators College students will be able to go into a school district and save that district at least two years’ worth of prep and training, of time and money, and be ready to start educating students from day one. They will be at the top of everybody’s list as far as candidates to employ.”

— Pat Mapes
Perry Township Superintendent

Did You Know?

Of the 400+ graduates from the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine, one-third are completing residencies in Indiana and more than 80 percent have chosen a primary specialty.

Students of color comprise 40 percent of Saint Joe’s inaugural class. They will receive automatic admittance into Marian University after successfully earning their associate degree.

Since 2016, the Fred S. Klipsch Educators College has nearly tripled freshman enrollment, and students of color have increased from 7.5 percent to 34 percent.

Latinos comprise 11 percent of Marian University’s 2019 freshman class. Since 2008, Latino representation among all Marian programs has increased 381 percent.

Our new goal is to raise $250 million by 2025!
Marian University athletics rose to new heights last fall, shattering records and making history along the way. Volleyball, cycling, women’s soccer, and football all competed for national titles, with volleyball and cycling taking home the top honors. While talent brought those athletes to campus, a determined spirit and willingness to work hard made them champions.

“Our team worked so hard in the gym, weightroom, and classroom, and it was a direct correlation to what we were able to accomplish on the national stage. Winning a national championship does not happen in just one year.” — Ashlee Pritchard, Head Volleyball Coach

Volleyball won the NAIA national championship for the first time in program history, as the Knights swept Westmont University 3-0 in the final match. Marian finished the 2019 national tournament with a perfect 7-0 record to finish the season at 38-2, another program record.

“Bringing a national volleyball title to Marian is something we are extremely proud of,” Pritchard said. “We had a solid group of leaders that kept our team focused and dedicated to not being comfortable where they were and kept pushing and striving for more. It truly takes a family and a culture of team work.”

Individual honors were plentiful: Pritchard was named National Tournament Coach of the Year and American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Coach of the Year. Pritchard and her staff of Riley Anderson and Sarah Dowers were honored as NAIA-AVCA Coaching Staff of the Year.

With 21 national track titles already under their belt, cycling wasn’t about to take a break either. It was time to add another.

Keeping with the winning tradition, Marian cycling earned first place in the team omnium classification for USA Cycling’s 2019 Collegiate Track National Championships. The men’s track team won every men’s event during championship weekend, for the first time in program history.

Head women’s soccer coach Gary Yohe said his team decided to take their commitment to the next level.

“Led by senior captain Alex Samons ’19, they wanted to put in time in the weightroom, they wanted to put in more time studying film. To see that effort pay off for this team is incredibly rewarding,” Yohe said.

Marian women’s soccer reached the NAIA National Championship match, falling 2-0 to Keiser University. The Knights reached the championship after a thrilling run through the tournament, capped by an overtime victory over top-ranked William Carey University in the semifinal.

The squad finished the season 20-3-3, a program best. The Knights were also 2019 Crossroads League Tournament Champions.

The football team’s commitment led to one of the most thrilling games of the 2019 season—the NAIA National Championship at Eddie G. Robinson Stadium in Grambling, Louisiana, against Morningside University.

Though the team fell short of the final win, they ended the season with a 12-1 overall record and were named the Mid-States Football Association Mideast Champions. Charles Salary ’19 was also named the 2019 NAIA National Player of the Year. Salary is the first Knight to receive the honor.

Steamrolling their competition throughout their respective seasons, volleyball, cycling, women’s soccer, and football all found success. This fall, the COVID-19 pandemic forced many Marian University athletic teams’ full seasons or national title opportunities to be postponed to the spring; however, women’s soccer and volleyball both made it to their conference tournaments, women’s soccer being named Crossroads League Champions for the second year in a row. Both teams’ successes secured them automatic qualifying positions into their respective NAIA National Tournaments, which begin in April 2021.

To keep up to date with the latest news from Marian University athletics, visit muknights.com.
Fred S. Klipsch Educators College, launches the university’s newest doctorate program. The new Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Organizational Leadership program has been designed to meet the needs of different fields and what are some of the issues that leaders need to be aware of in those areas. We can tailor this to different types of leadership roles, which is exciting. It’s a very flexible degree.

The new Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Organizational Leadership program is designed to help students build the emotional and psychological capacity for the burden of leadership, advance and enhance leadership skills, prepare them to employ research to diagnose organizational needs, and investigate interventions. Shaped after the Adaptive Leadership Model, the program provides a different set of lenses and tools for students to better engage with other people in their organization and how to approach new problems and situations that organizations haven’t faced before. After receiving feedback and seeing a demand for leaders not only in healthcare and education, but in other fields, the Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership program has been structured to meet the needs of different disciplines.

“Organizational Leadership, and how to approach new problems and situations that organizations haven’t faced before. After receiving feedback and seeing a demand for leaders not only in healthcare and education, but in other fields, the Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership program has been structured to meet the needs of different disciplines.

There has been a lot of discussion around who saw a need for leadership broadly, not just school leadership. We’ve done a lot of work with the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Leighton School of Nursing and heard that there is a great need for healthcare leaders and administrators. With our foot in the door in the medical world, we thought we could design a program that would produce healthcare administrators. We also discovered that Indianapolis is a big area for information technology and that’s a growing field, but no one is really offering for information technology leaders, non-profit leaders, or government leaders. What we designed is a program that is flexible to meet all of those needs, so it’s the E.D. and organizational leadership, but it will also allow specializations within that,” Nelson said.

With over 20 years of experience in education, especially the Catholic school world, Nelson’s goal is for students to access a flexible degree that will give them the opportunity to obtain important leadership skills that will be beneficial in difficult situations in the workplace. “We can create a specialized track for our school leaders that will get them their superintendent licensure, and we can create a specialized track for people who want to go into healthcare administration,” Nelson said. “They’re getting general, broad leadership concepts, but also looking at what plays out in those fields and what are some of the issues that leaders need to be aware of in those areas. We can tailor this to different types of leadership roles, which is exciting. It’s a very flexible degree.”

Creating Better Outcomes for Patients

Our faculty are forging the next generation of leaders. Outside of their dedication to educating our students, faculty are also busy doing their own research from responsible vascular access, to anatomical variations, or starting new programs, like the Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership. Here is just a glimpse at what our faculty are up to beyond the classroom.

For me it’s helping bring that awareness to Marian University,” Owens said. “If we can bring it to the programs and teach nurses the right way, they can go out into the hospitals and know what best practice is. Our patients will have better outcomes. It’s exciting to me because that’s my passion.”
From Lab Finding to Publication: Guiding Students Through Research

For more than a decade, the research of Sumathilaka Sakthi Velavan, MBBS, DGO, MS, assistant professor of anatomy in the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine, has focused on anatomical variations. Since beginning her role in the medical school, she has been able to help guide students through their own research of the same focus.

Sakthi Velavan says anatomical variations are deviations from the usual human anatomy. One of her most recent studies, “A Unilateral Pelvic Kidney with Variant Vasculature: Clinical Significance,” was published in the Journal of Surgical Case Reports and stemmed from a rare observation noted in the anatomy laboratory right on Marian’s campus. The report describes a case of a unilateral pelvic kidney with multiple vascular variations, extrarenal calyces, and mainstain.

“I chose to pursue this project since the noted anatomical variation was unique and associated with significant clinical application. The incidence of ectopic pelvic kidney accounts for ~1 of 2500 live births. Although pelvic kidneys are most often asymptomatic, they may be associated with several pathologies including hypertension,” Sakthi Velavan said. “Its pelvic kidney results from a developmental defect, it is frequently accompanied by an atypical and variable blood supply. I felt that it was essential to report the noted abnormality since the clinicians should be aware of the variant vasculature in patients with pelvic kidney and exercise caution to avoid inadvertent damage and possible surgical complications.”

To complete this study, Sakthi Velavan supervised and guided four medical students through the research process: Ralitsa Gencheva, Bryce Gibson, Shruthi Garugu, and Anthony Forest.

“This is a wonderful experience where an academic activity is transitioned into a scholarly outcome. In the future, I aim at promoting more anatomical variation-based research among our medical students as I believe that this training would facilitate their medical education and also strengthen their clinical acumen.”

Sakthi Velavan's research team

Diagnosing David: When Medicine Meets the Humanities

Taring at Michelangelo’s David over a decade during a vacation in Italy, Daniel Gelfman, M.D., clinical professor emeritus of medicine, made an unexpected observation. David had jugular venous distention.

Jugular venous distention (JVD), noticeable in the neck, is caused when there is pressure in the right atrium of the heart. Normal individuals may demonstrate intermittent JVD in certain circumstances, but when sustained, it is usually a sign of heart disease. Persistent external JVD when upright, as depicted in the David sculpture, should not be visible. Gelfman knew there had to be significance behind why Michelangelo decided to include this in his work.

“It truly was a shock. I’m sitting there and looking at this thing and thinking how has nobody else noticed that?” Gelfman said. “What Michelangelo must have been demonstrating was normal intermittent JVD related to excitement or exertion but could only show one moment in time, and thus the sculpture reveals sustained JVD.”

When Gelfman returned to Indianapolis, he got to work studying and researching why Michelangelo might have included this in his famous sculpture.

“They [Michelangelo] noticed intermittent jugular venous distention in people who were being very physical, but he also must have noticed that in people who were very excited. That’s why this gives a step further because David isn’t actually doing anything. That makes it even much more complex, that he put together that fact,” Gelfman said.

Gelfman’s article “The David Sign” was published in JAMA Cardiology and quickly made global waves. US News & World Report, The Indianapolis Star and its USA Today affiliates, and The Daily Mail (UK) all reported on his significant finding.

“Observing a patient with sustained JVD while standing, as depicted in David, would have suggested several possible diagnoses to me. I don’t know why it took 515 years for this paradoxic finding to be recognized. I suspect most observers didn’t see it and those that did, didn’t understand its significance,” Gelfman said.

Gelfman shared the importance of teaching medical students how to make this type of observation in patients when doing a physical exam.

“We emphasize the following in our teaching as quoted from the article in JAMA Cardiology, knowing the fundamentals, careful observations and always asking why in understanding medicine and making accurate diagnoses.” Gelfman said. “It is important that our physicians are able to do a proper physical exam.”

Daniel Gelfman, M.D.
Sister Norma Rocklage and the years of service and dedication she has given to the Community is an emblem of the Marian spirit. For over 50 years, Sister Norma Rocklage, OSF, PhD, ’60 blessed the community with her courageous heart, selflessness in service, and magnanimous spirit. “In John 21, Jesus clearly instructs Peter to, ‘Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, and feed my sheep.’ In Jesus’ commissioning of Peter, it is clear that he instructs a minister to be about feeding, caring for, and leading people to the word of God, holiness, and service to humanity. This call of Jesus to serve in this manner was lived most vividly in the life of Sister Norma Rocklage and the years of service she gave to the Marian University community. Sister Norma’s care and love for the Marian community is most endearing and will never be forgotten,” President Daniel J. Siese said.

Born Mary Ann on July 18, 1933, in St. Louis, Missouri, she is the second oldest of eight children born to Henry and Catherine (née: Lohmann) Rocklage. Mary Ann grew up with her close-knit family in St. Louis, attending Holy Cross School where she first became acquainted with the Franciscan Sisters, and by the eighth grade, she began thinking about becoming a Sister. She attended high school at the Immaculate Conception Academy in Oldenburg, and although quite shy and homeroom, she soon made friends and enjoyed her participation in student council and school publications. It was in witnessing the Sisters’ joy in their dedicated service that drew Mary Ann to the Community, and she professed her final vows on August 12, 1957, as Sister Norma.

Sister Norma continued her education at Marian College, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1961 and a Master of Arts and Doctor of Arts degree at St. Louis University. She began teaching primary grades at St. Mary School in North Vernon, Indiana, in 1963, followed by middle school students at St. Francis of Assisi School in Portage des Sioux, Missouri, before dedicating much of her life to students at Marian University, beginning in 1965.

Her positions at Marian included: 1965-74 Assistant Professor, Classical Languages // 1970-74 Dean for Academic Affairs // 1974-82 Served as Councilor at Oldenburg // 1974-82 Marian College Board of Trustees // 1989-2004 Director/Vice President of Academic Effectiveness // 2005-19 Executive Director for Formation and Outreach.

When Sister Norma returned to Marian in 1989, she was approached by five diocesan superintendents of Indiana to initiate a program for beginning principals on developing lay spirituality since almost all principals were laywomen. As she began, there was less clarity about the community, and perhaps less sure of the future, I found my love for and hope for the Community growing. As we move ahead in the uncertain future, I sense we are moving together more dependent on the Lord. We are able to share our journey and live with others. My favorite line in our mutual and personal ministry and mission is “Where there is one, there is the Community, there is the church, there is Jesus.”

As Marian University alumni, we are forever united by our liberal arts, values-based education and calling to lead. We can proudly boast many leaders: in business, education, healthcare, the church, our communities, and here on campus as well. Our graduates continue to hone their leadership skills as they move on to full-time employment, advanced education, medical residencies, volunteer positions, raising families, or other pursuits. Marian University provides students the opportunity to practice leadership in many ways, including:

- Fielding 27 athletic teams that compete at championship levels. Advising—and in many cases requiring—students to complete an internship prior to commencement.
- Empowering students to create, participate in, and lead student various student groups.
- Offering non-athletic arenas for them to compete, such as the Ethics Bowl, business plan competitions, and speech and debate competitions, among many others.
- Employing students to help one another, like in the Writing Center and Speaking Studio, where they work with a peer to improve, or the Peer Tutoring Center where students come to receive academic assistance.
- Encouraging students to offer the opportunity to learn alongside others in complementary programs, such as simulations pairing nursing and medical students together or nursing students with social work students.

Of course, Marian University is also committed to being a leader itself. In 2011, after recognizing the critical shortage of primary care health providers in the Midwest, we opened the first college of osteopathic medicine in Indiana and the first medical school in Indiana in 110 years. Since that time, the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine has graduated nearly 500 new physicians. Our first 5, Kippich Educators College is a model for best-in-class education of teachers and preparation of education students from diverse backgrounds.

All in all, as we always have to be so much to be proud of—we are all part of the Marian legacy. We have benefited from a Marian education, and we share in the pride of all the accomplishments of Marian University and all its graduates. How are you using what you learned at Marian?
2019

Denise Evanes Ware has retired after 34 years teaching in Catholic schools.

1991

Denise Evans Ware has retired after 34 years teaching in Catholic schools.

1976

Denise Evans Ware has retired after 34 years teaching in Catholic schools.

1952

The town of Culver, Indiana, declared Saturday, July 27, 2019, as Dr. Michael F. Deery Day in recognition of his hard work as a Spanish and English teacher.

2019

Kong for 13 years.

2019

Joann Guettner Schulten’s family is a true Marian legacy. Her son and daughter-in-law, Greg ‘83 and Lori Tompson ‘88 Schulten both graduated from Marian, as did her daughter Marlena Schulen McQuitty ‘98 and husband, Phil McQuitty ‘94. Now Joann’s granddaughter, Alice Davis, is a sophomore at Marian, and her grandson Matt has married another Marian graduate, Anna Bittner Schulten ’14. James Brothers retired after teaching 40 years at North Putnam Community Schools.

2019

Kesley Elenoy is a student associate at Anthem, Inc.

2019

Mary Chou had two paintings accepted into the Juried show at Minnetrista, Open Space - Art Abounds and Exhibit. It was at Minnetrista for seven weeks and is now on display at the Anderson Museum of Art. John Kendall is retired from Tecumseh Community School where he has served as band director.

2019

Denise Barc is retired.

2019

Stanley Ley is director of retail operations — US North America for Club Marketing Services.

2019

Brian Nichols is director of retail operations - US North America for Club Marketing Services.

1985

Steve Seculoff, Jackie Kurth and Samuel Stone ’15 were married.

2019

Doneisha Posey is Ivy Tech student, Oscar Health.

2019


2003


2009


2008

Megan Driskell was named to the Insurance

1976

Paul and Suzanne Lasvey ’72 Whalen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2020.

1973

Paul Norman was named to the Insurance Business America Hall of Fame.

1992

Denise Evans Ware has retired after 34 years teaching in Catholic schools.

2000


2009

2014
Jordon Abmay married Mitch Mower on June 7, 2019. Charles Ayers is marketing and communications coordinator for ZRF. Michael Barton was elected to the Republican Party of Marion County in February 2014. Zach Cecil was ordained in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis on May 18, 2019. Tim DeCranne was ordained in the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis on June 1, 2019. Becky Gammer and Brittain Dwigan '16 were married on June 1, 2019. Andrew Hoss was ordained to the priesthood by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis on June 1, 2019. Drew Kelly is executive at MetAC, Marian Lowery is to announce that Dr. Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School, where he worked as principal from 2016-18, was recognized as an Accredited High School by the Indiana Department of Education as one of two A+ and 97.55 rated high schools from 2017-18. Keith Pavlish serves in the United States Air Force as a communications coordinator for JDRF. Zach Cecil married Magdalena Rose, in January 2020.

2016
T.J. Abmay-Elkins is store manager at Save-A-Lot. Justin Ahn is operations supervisor at Venture Logistics. Emily Dolch is a nurse case manager for St. Vincent Hospital at Ascension Health. She bought a house last year where her boyfriend and she are making a home. Emily Ernst was hired as a paralegal at Lewis and Wilkins on June 2, 2016. Alex McCloud is head boys’ basketball coach at University High School. She was ordained to the transitional deaconate by the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois on April 26, 2016. Adam Schertzer is assistant branch manager at GTE Financial. Michael Trummer was ordained a transitional deacon in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois on April 26, 2016. Dominic Valhuisord was ordained to the transitional deaconate by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis on May 18, 2016.

2018
James Bohn is a registered nurse with Aya Healthcare. He was ordained to the transitional deaconate by the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois in April 2020. Shannon Kelley Stanley has been promoted to account executive, retail and consumer goods at Salesforce. Sara Carlton was married to Andrew Dougan in July 2020. Zachary McQuillin Scheel and husband, Zachary, welcomed son, Deyon, in May 2020.

2019
Andrew Thomas. Olivia Salzman was promoted to senior crew scheduler for United Airlines in Chicago, Illinois. Katelyn Brooks welcomed son, Owen, in May 2020. Emily McNulty was named associate judge in McHenry County (IL). Cody Carnell is Tax Associate at MCM CPAs & Stauffer. Eliot Berghoff welcomed daughter, Georgia June, in June 2020. Zach Cecil welcomed son, Beauden Michael, in June 2020. Emily Deitch was the groom’s uncle and godfather, Tom Daniel, who had visited the Golden Triangle and then the west coast of India before joining up with Tom’s cousin, Ben Duong, has received a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Vietnam, where he plans to continue his studies in Francophone law.

2020
Jennifer Miller Johnson has been named associate judge in McHenry County (IL). Cody Carnell is Tax Associate at MCM CPAs & Stauffer. Eliot Berghoff welcomed daughter, Georgia June, in June 2020. Zach Cecil welcomed son, Beauden Michael, in June 2020. Emily Deitch was the groom’s uncle and godfather, Tom Daniel, who had visited the Golden Triangle and then the west coast of India before joining up with Tom’s cousin, Ben Duong, has received a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Vietnam, where he plans to continue his studies in Francophone law.

Six Marian alumni traveled to India, Nepal, and Dubai in January and February. Jenny ‘76 and Susan Kowen ‘74 are planning for three weeks in India. They spent time in the Golden Triangle and then the west coast of India before joining up with Tom’s cousin, Ben Duong, has received a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Vietnam, where he plans to continue his studies in Francophone law.

A group of alumni gathered in Newton, Massachusetts, to celebrate the marriage of Bryan Wyne, son of Louise Daniel Wynne ‘78 to Olivia Whitaker, Pictured are Marian alumni Elaine Reha Study ‘78, Carol Abdil Wissel ‘78, Carol Laskocak Burian ‘78 and proud Mom, Louise Daniel Wynne ‘78, as well as Herb Kellhofer, who will attend the wedding but not pictured was the groom’s uncle and godfather, Tom Daniel ‘92 (photo).
IN MEMORIAM

Mary Rose Turner Bueschel ’43 - October 19, 2019
Agnes Lang Aminne ’44 - July 10, 2019
Mary Louise Toftoef Valohar ’44 - January 8, 2019
Ruth Bill Jennewein ’47 - May 1, 2019
Elaineor “Nora” Thompson Cardos ’47 - July 18, 2019
Rosemary Doyle Recher ’48 - June 6, 2019
Dorothy Berens ’48 - November 2, 2019
Suzanne Orth Reil ’49 - June 11, 2019
Luis Mendonshull Berghoff ’50 - May 16, 2019
Margaret Yiga Hatke ’50 - January 5, 2019
Sr. Helen Erekloh, OFS ’51 - January 6, 2020
Beatrice Durham Jenkins ’51 - March 29, 2019
Billie Ellers Sherrett ’51 - August 29, 2019
Barbara Brunson Hawkins ’52 - November 19, 2019
Beatrice Durham Jenkins ’51 - December 31, 2019
Sr. Virginia Ann Streit, OSF ’52 - July 28, 2019
Edda Fiorino Camardo ’53 - November 19, 2019
Sr. Francis Joan Long ’53 - May 16, 2019
Nancy Reiber Hall ’53 - August 29, 2019
Sr. Virginia Ann Streit, OSF ’52 - May 20, 2019
Eveline Joan Clozewski ’54 - November 24, 2019
Margaret Yiga Hatke ’50 - November 7, 2019
Sr. Mary Ann Miles, OSF ’58 - August 5, 2019
Sr. Helen Erekloh, OFS ’51 - August 24, 2019
Sr. Mary Ann Miles, OSF ’58 - August 5, 2019
Sr. Rita Vukovic, OFS ’58 - October 5, 2019
Barbara Mauch ’88 - March 16, 2019
Anna Marie Kiefer ’67 - January 3, 2020
Sr. Sharon Marie Blank, OSF ’74 - July 1, 2019
Sharon Orr Fisko ’77 - March 16, 2019
Susan Close Kern ’79 - December 19, 2019
Sr. Mary Miller Thompson ’56 - August 11, 2019
Pratcik Henn ’59 - July 19, 2019
Gerda Gerhaff ’59 - December 23, 2018
Elizabeth “Betty” Burnett Boone ’60 - November 12, 2019
Sr. Francis Ann Lewis, OFS ’60 - August 11, 2019
Vera Ramstetter Nash ’60 - August 26, 2018
Sr. Norma Rockleigh, OSF, Ph.D., ’60 - June 22, 2020
Sr. Justin Louise Stiller, OFS ’60 - July 23, 2019
Normalee Richard Steckelhant ’60 - May 7, 2019
Robert Harmoning ’61 - December 28, 2019
Kathleen O’Connor Greene ’62 - January 7, 2019
Judy Hardin Hall ’62 - March 29, 2019
Tom Tarpey ’62 - May 15, 2019
Marilyn Winifred Bardon ’64 - December 31, 2019
Joseph Keers ’64 - June 3, 2019
Martha Wechsler Currie ’65 - September 9, 2019
Anna Marie Kiefer ’67 - January 3, 2020
Dennis Pytla ’73 - July 1, 2019
Anne Marie Vitale ’74 - October 9, 2019
Donald Sartine ’72 - November 13, 2019
Sr. Sharon Marie Blank, OSF ’74 - July 1, 2019
Sharon Orr Fisko ’77 - March 16, 2019
Susan Close Kern ’79 - December 19, 2019
Frances Joan Long ’79 - December 2, 2019
Mark Daniel ’80 - September 29, 2020
Anna Excell Myers ’85 - October 23, 2019
Barbara Mauch ’88 - November 17, 2018
James Faustlich ’93 - November 13, 2019
John Keeling ’66 - July 13, 2019
Charles Frazier, former faculty member - May 14, 2019

END NOTE

A project to be assigned to you. No matter what position you hold—whether it’s as a member of an organization, team, or club—find ways to contribute and don’t wait for support to be successful, and get out of their way.

DENISE BRENNAN FESER ’77

Denise Brennan Feser ’77 is current chair of Marian University’s Board of Trustees. Feser spent most of her career in higher education, holding roles as admission counselor and director of alumni relations at Marian University before moving to USA Funds. Feser retired as senior vice president at the company, which provides financial support to students seeking post-secondary education.

As a leader throughout her career and in her current role as chair, Feser knows what it takes to innovate, guide, and make change. Here’s what she has to say about leadership:

Q&A

What does it take to be a successful leader? Successful leaders are empathetic, possess good listening skills, and can step back to see the bigger picture. Empathy for staff, colleagues, and others we serve is essential for building trust. Listening and paying attention to all communication, verbal and nonverbal, can provide insights that may be missed otherwise. A successful leader takes the long view and can see the interconnectivity of seemingly disparate pieces. Also, successful leaders recognize, appreciate, and help develop talents in others that complement their own skillset and bring diverse perspectives to the table.

What’s a lesson in leadership you’ve learned? Some lessons learned include: leaders don’t have to shout to be heard, leading by example is evidence of my commitment to the endeavor, and don’t read my own press releases. The last one translates into be humble.

There are many styles of leadership, but I gravitate toward servant leadership. Hire the best people, give them the resources and support to be successful, and get out of their way.

What do you think is the biggest challenge for a leader? Technology has contributed to an avalanche of information coming at leaders. Sifting through it to separate the wheat from the chaff is a significant challenge. Leaders are well served by intentionally setting aside time to digest, reflect, meditate, and process.

What advice do you have for our students? Leverage the leadership skills you’ve developed as a Marian student. No matter what position you hold—whether it’s as a member of an organization, team, or club—find ways to contribute and don’t wait for a project to be assigned to you.

“Here are many styles of leadership, but I gravitate toward servant leadership. Hire the best people, give them the resources and support to be successful, and get out of their way.”

— Denise Brennan Feser ’77

Remember Marian University in a deferred gift and truly leave a legacy. Consider the following options:

• Make a bequest through your will.
• Name Marian University as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy.
• Name Marian University as a beneficiary of your 401k, 403b, or IRA.
• A charitable gift annuity.
• Name Marian University as a beneficiary of your 401k, 403b, or IRA.
• Name Marian University as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy.
• A charitable gift annuity.

Deferred gifts can be used to endow scholarships or benefit a program that is meaningful to you, and donors who make a deferred gift become members of the Heritage of St. Francis Society.

To talk further about a deferred gift, or to request more information, please contact:

John Finkel
Vice President
Office of Institutional Advancement
jfinke@marian.edu
317.955.6202
In October, Marian University announced the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering, offering undergraduate degrees in various engineering disciplines. Through generous contributions, Marian University will expand in its vision as a Catholic university to offer bachelor of engineering degrees that are rooted in the liberal arts tradition with the goal of graduating a diverse pipeline of talented leaders.

The inaugural class for the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering will enter Marian in Fall 2022. To learn more, visit marian.edu/wsoe.