

THE FAITHFUL LEADER

marian.edu/FaithfulLeader

from the heart of the Church

SUMMER 2018
WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2 » Grant Received to Promote Catholic Franciscan Thought
» Sophomore Service Project: Speaker Sue Ellen Browder on Feminism

- 3 » Medical Missions Serving the World

- 4 » Alumni Profile: Philip Ryan



Marian University to Offer Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry

By Mark Apple, Vice President for Marketing Communications

Marian University has received accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission to offer a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry. The university is accepting applications now for the inaugural cohort, which will begin classes in Fall 2018.

The two-year, full-time degree is designed for adult learners presently serving, or intending to serve, the Church as a pastoral minister. Applicants in roles of ecclesial lay leadership, catechetical positions, and/or volunteer lay ministers in general can benefit from the curriculum, which offers a broad background in practical/pastoral theology that fosters a professional approach to ministry within the context of contemporary culture.

"Not only is our vision to form transformative leaders, but our mission is to promote our Franciscan values," Sister Margaret Schreiber, program director, said. "These values, as well as guidelines for certification as an ecclesial minister, provide a strong foundation for those who are called to serve God's mission."

Admission requirements include:

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Undergraduate GPA of at least 3.00
- Pastoral ministry work experience
- Application for admission with responses to essay questions
- Three letters of recommendation (one academic, two pastoral)
- Interview with program faculty, if selected

The program requires completion of 10 didactic classes, two leadership seminars, and two supervised ministry experiences. Over the course of two years of full-time study, students will complete the courses as a cohort, which adds to the learning experience. Two classes will meet on Marian University's campus on the near-westside of Indianapolis on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and one class will be taken online.

Degree completion provides a path to several employment opportunities, including:

- Director of Diocesan Offices
- Directors of Faith Formation
- Directors of Youth Ministry
- Lay Ecclesial Ministry
- Parish Life Coordinators
- Pastoral Life Coordinators
- Pastoral Care of the Sick and Elderly
- Preparation for Chaplaincy (CPE Required)

Questions about the program can be directed to Sister Margaret Schreiber mschreiber@marian.edu or 317.955.6557. For questions about applying to the program, contact GRadmissions@marian.edu or 317.955.6128. Applications can be submitted online at marian.edu/applynow.



Marian University Receives Grant to Promote Catholic Franciscan Thought

By Daniel J. Elsener, President of Marian University



Greetings fellow Knights!

The spring semester concluded a wonderful academic year, and you can be assured the Marian University community is enjoying the exciting new facilities and programs we have to offer.

Among the many opportunities available on campus to grow in knowledge, consider new insights, and gain inspiration are the guest speaker events at which visitors

share thoughts and research on contemporary issues. During the spring semester, the San Damiano Scholars hosted an insightful speaker, Sue Ellen Browder, on campus. You can read more about her presentation on page 2 in this issue of *The Faithful Leader*.

Additionally, the Department of Theology and Philosophy hosted Kimberly Baker, Ph.D., from the Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology for the annual Bishop Simon Bruté Lecture. She spoke on Saint Augustine's search for God and how it applies to our own lives today before a full house of Marian University students, faculty, staff, and friends.

These events, and countless others, create a dynamic campus environment in which students can explore their faith. Providing this experience to students is at the heart of our mission. As we are always pursuing new ways to do so, I am excited to announce we recently received a generous grant from the Council of Independent Colleges to support more of these efforts!

In the fall, Marian University will launch the Vision and Journey Faculty Fellows and Seminars program to promote the theological exploration of vocation throughout the entire undergraduate

experience at Marian University, infusing our general education curriculum and key co-curricular programs with the Catholic and Franciscan intellectual traditions.

The title for the program is derived from the constitution of the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana, and the journey which we take with students through the enterprise of higher education. Inspired by the search for truth that is at the heart of Catholic higher education, the Vision and Journey Faculty Fellows and Seminars will promote research focused on the intersection of Marian University's Franciscan sponsorship values (dignity of the individual, peace and justice, reconciliation, and responsible stewardship) and the core general education experience of all students.

The two-year, intensive seminar program for 30 Marian University faculty members will deepen their knowledge of our rich tradition by reading the important works from master theologians, such as St. Bonaventure and St. Pope John Paul II. Then utilizing high-impact teaching practices, the professors will integrate their new found knowledge into courses that are required for all Marian University students.

This reminds me of what Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said to Catholic educators when he visited the United States in 2008. At that time he said, "Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the good news. First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God, who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth."

At Marian University we believe this and strive to make it a reality for all our students. When completed, the Vision and Journey Faculty Fellows and Seminars will ensure that this goal is realized for every undergraduate student at Marian University.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Daniel J. Elsener".

Sophomore Service Project: Speaker Sue Ellen Browder on Feminism

By Sarah Wood '20, San Damiano Scholar

On the morning of Sunday, February 12, 2017, I was preparing for the momentous San Damiano Scholars sophomore service project meeting. I knew from upperclassmen we had two options: come up with an original project or devote our sophomore year to a ministry on campus.

Coming up with an original project would take more effort and planning. I must admit not wanting to take on extra work, so I planned to choose the easier path; in fact, I prayed for that easier path. But here's the thing about God: he has a funny sense of humor.

While contemplating which campus ministry to choose, I noticed my friend, Abigail Spittler '20, smiling at me from across the room. When

it was time to divide into partners, Abigail stared me down and said, "I have an idea and need your help."

Shoot. So much for my plan. She told me about her idea of bringing this pro-life speaker, Sue Ellen Browder, to campus to share her views on true feminism and tell her story of conversion to become a pro-life activist. I was hooked. I could not pass on this opportunity to be involved with something so important and, potentially, impactful.

In April 2017, we presented our mission statement, vision, and goals to the Campus Ministry Shark Tank. We had to convince the campus ministers to give us their blessing and their money in order to bring Sue Ellen Browder to campus. We gave it our best shot and got

Medical Missions Serving the World

By Claire Dougherty, Second-Year MU-COM Student



Left: Sarah Wood '20
Right: Abigail Spitler '20

approved. Sue Ellen Browder could come to Marian University, but it was up to us to make that happen. There it was—the extra work part, but I was at peace.

We began working on commitment from Sue Ellen Browder. We also sought advice from Mary Dougherty, director of programming at Right to Life Indianapolis. We spent countless hours making and posting flyers, filling out work orders, ordering food, making itineraries, booking rooms, etc.

On January 16, Mark Erdosy, executive director of the San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership, Abigail, and I went to pick up Sue Ellen at the airport. I was nervous, perhaps even panicky. I wanted it to all go smoothly. When Sue Ellen walked out of the gate and greeted us all with a hug, I could finally breathe.

Sue Ellen spoke to the theology and philosophy and campus ministry departments over lunch. She gave a magnificent talk about the media and the lies they can sell to us. Later she met with the student officers of the pro-life group on campus, Knights for Life. The officers asked insightful questions and, before we knew it, it was time to head over to the theatre for the lecture.



Knights for Life officers bond with Sue Ellen Browder. From left to right: Abigail Spitler '20, Sarah Wood '20, Sue Ellen Browder, Maggie Stephens '20, Clare Stephens '20, Rosa Luna '20, and Mary Carmen Zakrajsek '21.

Sue Ellen's talk was inspirational, informational, and guided by the Holy Spirit. She told the harsh reality about abortion and how it only took 57 feminists to change the course of the feminist movement forever. Out of all the feminists at the time, only 57 of them voted to promote abortion and sexual liberation. She reminded us to not believe everything we see and hear on television. Her lecture sparked discussion and challenged all of us to continually seek and spread the truth about abortion and true feminism.

I wouldn't trade this experience for the world. With the help of the San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership, the Office of Mission and Ministry, Right to Life Indy, the Office of Marketing Communications, and the grace of God, Sue Ellen Browder came to campus and inspired and enlightened us all.

The Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MU-COM) extends its global outreach through medical mission trips throughout the year. Recent students have served in Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Nicaragua.

Claire Dougherty, OMS-II, participated in the 2017 mission trip to Nicaragua with Global Health Outreach, a short-term international missions program which spreads the gospel by sending medical, dental, and surgical teams around the world.

“It was a fantastic experience. I gained valuable knowledge about medical missions, as well as a sense of renewal and fulfillment for my chosen path of medicine,” explains Dougherty.



Her team set up a clinic held in a local church in a small rural town. The clinic provided services in obstetrics/gynecology, ultrasound, dental, vision, family practice, minor surgical, and pharmaceutical, giving her the opportunity to assist in all areas with a wide variety of patients.

“It was touching to see the impact we made on patients with just a simple touch and by showing we cared,” said Dougherty, who found herself inspired by all the faithful physicians and healthcare workers on her team. “I loved getting to witness these volunteers providing medical care while also sharing Christ's love with the patients.”

Dougherty appreciated the example of exactly the type of physician she wants to be.

Top: Dougherty and a medical student from the University of Florida ran the eye clinic together.

Right: In the general medical clinic, each physician on the team had a table and a translator where they took care of general medicine concerns.



To learn more about faith at Marian University, visit marian.edu/epiphanies.

Alumni Profile: Philip Ryan

Name: Philip Ryan

Position: Medical student

Parish: St. Alexander Villa Park, Illinois

Years of Service: 2017-present

Marian University Graduation Year: 2015

Major: Biology



Why Marian University? I chose to attend Marian based predominantly upon the San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership and through it being able to further develop my faith with my peers and serve alongside them. The allure of the future osteopathic school at the time was also quite remarkable.

Favorite Marian moment: Representing Marian and dressing up as Buddy the Elf at the National Catholic Youth Conference.

Favorite professor and/or class: Dr. Sherman's bioethics class

Why the San Damiano Scholars Program? God. You don't simply join the program, you are adopted into a family and community that holds you accountable and one that uplifts you allowing you to grow and flourish into the person God created you to be.

God requested Francis of Assisi to "Rebuild My Church." How would you interpret this request in your own life and for your own faith community? The request to "Rebuild My Church," is an ever-evolving one for me personally. I often interpret it as listening and responding to the will of God in my life and allowing the Spirit to move me to help further His kingdom in my community and the world. I have always felt a strong call to the medical profession to be His healing hands, and each day I awaken with that conviction. I pray every day that I may be a vessel for Him, continuing to spread His gospel message to those I encounter.

Recent accomplishments/awards/events that you are proud of: D'Aversa Family Endowed Scholarship recipient

If you have visited Marian recently, what struck you the most about campus? The physical growth and expansion of campus is immense and never ceases to amaze me.

Advice to give a student looking to attend Marian University for the San Damiano Scholars Program: Don't take yourself too seriously. Be yourself, laugh at yourself, and step outside your comfort zone. You will discover and further develop your talents and gifts. That is amazing, but also learn how to balance commitments to avoid exhausting yourself. Fill up your cup before you go out to fill others'; nourish yourself so you can nourish others. Jesus took time in the desert multiple times before and during his ministry, so you too must pray and discern how God is calling you to use those gifts for His greater glory.



Record number of students answering the call

55

new **San Damiano Scholars** for the 2018 fall semester, making a total of 147 scholars in the program

50

students registered for **Missionary Disciples Institute** this summer from June 18-23

MARIAN UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis

3200 Cold Spring Road
Indianapolis, IN 46222-1997

marian.edu |

Marian University is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana.