REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

By Andy Brodzeller

After spending a semester working at Jones Island, site of a Milwaukee wastewater treatment plant, John Ross, a senior in the College of Engineering, found himself in a hydraulics class. “It was much easier to conceptualize flow in a pipe after spending a semester working on a sewer project,” Ross says. Though the co-op experience helps students apply classroom lessons, Ross emphasizes the opportunity to be mentored by practicing engineers and seeing firsthand how they solve problems. “Understanding what makes an engineer effective will serve me well for the rest of my life.”

The quality and rigor of academic programs is the core of the Marquette experience, but students have many opportunities to learn beyond the classroom. To help transfer the skills and knowledge gained in the classroom, students can take advantage of internships and co-op programs, providing practical work experience before they graduate.

“For many students, internships and co-ops are the first taste of working in a professional environment,” says Susan Michaelson, director of co-operative education in the College of Engineering. “Students quickly learn to show up every day, be on time and to work collaboratively with other employees.” The college annually places 100 students in co-op positions around the country, ranging from the Food and Drug Administration to the Boeing Company to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, where Ross co-ops.

Michaelson says the experiences help students learn what they want to do — and what they don’t want to do after graduation. That knowledge can save a student from frustration and disappointment by knowing what jobs not to pursue out of college.

Internships lead to jobs

One big advantage of co-ops and internships is they can often lead to jobs. Employers taking part in the National Association of Colleges and Employers’ 2010 Internship and Co-op Survey reported that almost half, 44.6 percent, of the employees they hired in 2009 came from their own internship programs. Dan Ortego helps students find internships at financial institutions, small and large businesses, and Fortune 500 companies. More employers are using their internship programs to evaluate students for full-time opportunities, says Ortego, director of the College of Business Administration Career Center. Even if students don’t get an offer where they interned, “more employers are expecting students to have at least one internship experience related to their major,” he adds.

The process of getting an internship has become competitive, according to Sheena Carey, internship coordinator in the J. William and Mary Diederich College of Communication. “More and more companies expect students to provide a résumé and cover letter, then interview for the position,” Carey explains. “These are basic job search skills.” Many communication students do two or even three internships during college, sometimes starting with an on-campus experience.

Paid or not, the company is investing in interns “who show initiative on projects and support the efforts of other employees.” She encourages students to speak up and play an active role with the team or individual with whom they are working. “One of the biggest mistakes students make is not asking enough questions,” she says.

Laura Kestner, director of Marquette’s Career Services Center, agrees that internships and co-ops help prepare students for job searches and employment.

Marquette names 23rd president

Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., was named the 23rd president of Marquette and will assume office in summer 2011. He will succeed Rev. Robert A. Wild, S.J., who announced he would retire at the end of the 2010-11 academic year after serving as Marquette president for 15 years.

Father Pilarz comes to Marquette from the University of Scranton, a Jesuit university in Pennsylvania, where he has served as president since 2003. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1981 after receiving his bachelor’s degree in English from Georgetown and was ordained a priest in 1982.

In 1996, he returned to Georgetown as an assistant professor of English and in 2002 was also named Georgetown’s interim university chaplain. A beloved teacher at Georgetown, Father Pilarz continued to teach one class a semester while at Scranton and plans to do the same at Marquette.

“Jesuit education is the greatest gift that St. Ignatius gave to the world,” he says. “I am awed by the transformative power of what we do in the lives of our students.”

Father Pilarz says that he is looking forward to building off the success achieved under Father Wild’s leadership. “Marquette enjoys a national reputation for its pursuit of academic excellence and for the way its students, faculty and alumni live out the principles of Catholic, Jesuit education,” he says. “I have tremendous respect for Father Wild and the remarkable accomplishments of the entire Marquette community during his presidency. The opportunity to lead this institution at a time of such momentum and promise is both exciting and humbling.”

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FROM THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Join us!

Participating in the Parents Association is easy and a great way to support Marquette and your child. The MUPA provides opportunities for you to volunteer, network, and socialize throughout the year. Another way to make an impact is by giving to the Parents Fund. The fund supports unique undergraduate opportunities and programs students use every day. For more information, please contact Molly Eldridge at (414) 288-4497 or muparents@marquette.edu.

Dear Marquette parents and family members,

It is wonderful to be a Marquette parent! As alumni of the university and now parents of a current student, we feel fortunate to be members of the Parents Association. This is our fourth year as Marquette University Parents Association board members and our third year as national co-chair of the Parents Association. Whether this is your first, middle or last child to attend Marquette, you no doubt are curious about what the college experience will hold for your sons and daughters and what role you may continue to play in their lives.

This newsletter, along with the monthly e-newsletter, is a great source of information, as well as reassurance during our time as Marquette parents. As our oldest son continues his senior year, we are thankful for our involvement with the association, which has enriched our experience with the university.

Sincerely,

Jan (H Sci ’73) and Carl (Bus Ad ’73, Grad ’74) Gargula
Parents Association board members since 2007

Students urged to use public safety services

Information about public safety resources at Marquette is readily available on the new Department of Public Safety website. DPS, with more than 90 professional and 100 student staff members, provides a variety of safety seminars, property security programs and student safety services, including vans running from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. daily, on-call transportation, walking safety escorts, and more than 300 blue light phones and 547 video cameras connected to the department’s Command Center.

“Campus and neighborhood safety requires that students work with us, taking advantage of the services we offer and using common-sense precautions,” Chief Larry Rickard tells students during freshman orientation.

The website also includes annual crime and fire statistics as well as the department’s daily log, which records incidents that occur on campus or within the department’s patrol boundaries, which extend beyond the campus area.

“We hope student awareness of incidents keeps them mindful of the importance of taking basic safety precautions to keep themselves and their property secure,” Rickard says. “We encourage students and staff to report any suspicious activity, and knowing where thefts or other incidents have occurred helps them be more attentive. While many of the incidents involve non-Marquette-affiliated individuals, our officers are often the first respondents, and we work in close cooperation with the Milwaukee Police Department.”

Rickard encourages parents with safety-related questions to visit marquette.edu/dps or contact him directly at (414) 288-6800.

“Campus and neighborhood safety requires that students work with us, taking advantage of the services we offer and using common-sense precautions.”

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*Searching for a job can be intimidating, but for students who searched for an internship or interviewed for a co-op, it will be familiar territory,* says Kestner.

Take advantage of contacts

Ortego urges students to use networking opportunities during internships. He suggests working in different departments or areas within a company, not only to learn additional skills, but to meet more people. These people can be valuable resources when students are looking for a job, he says.

*“In a tough economy, the number one method for finding a job is through your network,”* says Kestner. “Using a network allows students to get their names and credentials to the right person at the right time.”

Though the Career Services Center and various college programs actively support students searching for internships, Carey points out that parents can help, too. “Parents’ colleagues and friends are excellent sources for internship information and possibilities,” she says. When students start job searching their senior year, Kestner tells them to “use your internship network for references and finding job openings.”

*“I would encourage any student to participate in the co-op program,”* Ross says, “and I would do it again.”

E-newsletter for parents

Sign up for the Marquette Parent e-newsletter by visiting marquette.edu/parents. Sent every month during the academic year, the newsletter includes the latest Marquette news, campus happenings and timely reminders.
Arts and Sciences dean at the core of education

Rev. Philip Rossi, S.J., the newly appointed interim dean of the Helen Way Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, believes strongly in the role a college of arts and sciences plays in Catholic, Jesuit higher education.

“Solutions to the most important issues facing society need to be addressed in all their dimensions,” he says. “From the environment to banking, from law to engineering, no single profession is positioned to know the best answer!”

As the home of the Core of Common Studies, the college has a unique position in strengthening the education of all Marquette students, Father Rossi notes. With its multidisciplinary focus, the college gives students the opportunity to be imaginative and adventurous as they explore questions, ideas and their future goals. Father Rossi encourages students to take full advantage of the opportunities and resources offered to them.

“Encourage your sons and daughters to get to know and speak with their teachers and to participate in activities beyond the classroom,” he suggests to parents. “The four years in college offer a unique opportunity to become aware of and involved in new worlds, both within and beyond Marquette.”

Father Rossi thinks students need a well-rounded and balanced education to thrive in today’s fast-paced world. As interim dean, he looks forward to continuing the long-standing tradition of the College of Arts and Sciences in providing an education that helps students see the big picture and adapt to new situations.

“A balanced education prepares students to do something more valuable than having the right answers,” he says. “It makes it possible for them to ask the right questions.”

Engineering the student experience

As the parent of two college students, Dr. Robert H. Bishop, the new OPUS Dean of the College of Engineering, understands the responsibility that colleges have in supporting and preparing students for the future.

“Having recently gone through the college selection process, I can say with confidence that Marquette is well-equipped to provide care and support for our students beyond providing a challenging academic program,” he says. He adds that Marquette fosters the development of the total person so that students can develop the tools necessary to meet the demands placed on today’s graduates.

“The college experience should prepare students to manage their time, find balance in their work and discover how to tackle challenges in a positive way,” both personally and professionally, he says. “Our students expect a great deal from us. It is our responsibility to maximize their probability for success.”

To meet those ends for engineering students, Bishop looks forward to working with his faculty to continue developing the discovery learning concept for the College of Engineering, aimed at connecting design, engineering principles, ethics and global issues. “The new Discovery Learning Complex will provide important collaborative space and help support our vision for an engaging engineering curriculum,” which will serve as a model for engineering education into the future, he says.

“Engineers, all students, need to think with the right and left brain, to be creative as well as analytic, and be able to interact and express their ideas to others,” Bishop says. He also thinks the idea of balance is important for parents to remember. He encourages parents to “allow room for their sons and daughters to grow and to know when to be there to offer advice and support.”

CONNECT WITH MARQUETTE AND OTHER PARENTS

Marquette students come from all over the world, arriving from more than 60 countries and all 50 states, including one class of 2014 student who traveled 9,700 miles from Jakarta, Indonesia. Thanks to social media and the Internet, parents can stay in touch with what is happening on campus and connect with other Marquette parents no matter where they live.

Online resources at marquette.edu

Athletics
gomarquette.com
Career Services
marquette.edu/csc
Counselling Center
marquette.edu/counseling
Marquette Central
marquette.edu/mucentral
Parents
marquette.edu/parents
Public Safety
marquette.edu/ps
Student Health Service
marquette.edu/SHS
Important Dates

Nov. 24-28: Thanksgiving break
Dec. 13-18: Final exams
Dec. 18: Residence halls close at noon
Dec. 19: Mid-year Commencement
Jan. 16: Residence halls open at 10 a.m.
Jan. 17: Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, no classes
Jan. 18: Spring semester classes begin
Jan. 18-22: Winter Flurry
Feb. 6-11: Mission Week
Feb. 15: Submit FASFA to meet priority deadline
Feb. 19: Parents Association basketball game and reception
March 7-11: Midterm exams
March 12: Residence halls close at noon
March 12-20: Spring break
March 20: Residence halls open at 10 a.m.
April 15-17: L.U. Siles Weekend
April 16: Hunger Clean-Up
April 19: Spring Work Force Career Fair for all students seeking internships and full-time positions
April 21-25: Easter holiday, no classes
May 9-14: Final exams
May 14: Residence halls close at noon
May 15-20: Senior Week
May 21: Baccalaureate Mass
May 22: Commencement

Students returning to Marquette in the fall saw more additions to campus than new freshmen faces. Construction and remodeling projects added color to the campus palette. Students praised the remodeled dining hall in Mashuda Hall, which was converted from a conventional cafeteria to a ’50s-inspired diner, and renovations to the Helfaer Recreation Center, which received improved lighting, fresh paint and new windows.

Other noticeable changes to campus include the completion of Eckstein Hall, Marquette’s $85 million law school building, and the construction of the first phase of the $100 million Discovery Learning Complex.

Mashuda’s ’50s diner was one of three dining halls renovated this year. The transformation turned infrequently used space into a café filled with students and tunes from a jukebox. Harkening back to the days of poodle skirts and roller skates, the diner serves burgers, Philly cheesesteak sandwiches, breakfast all day and hand-spun milkshakes. The menu items are made to order, and orders are taken by diner workers, allowing students to remain seated in the electric blue booths and relax with friends while their food is being prepared.

Renovations were also completed in Straž’s dining hall, which focuses on healthy options and more vegetarian and vegan dishes, and McCormick Hall’s dining hall. With their meal plans, students can choose to eat at any of the 15 dining venues on campus, including the newly renovated ones.

Students lobbied for changes at the recreation center, resulting in new equipment and a new look. More than $70,000 of cardiovascular/weight training equipment was added, and the fitness area was completely renovated, with new lighting, painting, flooring and windows to provide natural light. The front lobby and main corridor of the Rec Center were painted, and windows were added. The renovations are meant to help extend the life of the facility, which is home to Marquette’s 34 club sports teams and meets the needs of the nearly 2,000 students who use it during peak periods. Marquette University Student Government allocated funds for a study of the campus recreation facilities, and the Office of the University Architect, the Office of Student Affairs and MUSG are working with the consulting firm of Moody Nolan to complete the study this fall.

Eckstein Hall, home of Marquette University Law School, officially opened for students in August. The building features ground-breaking technology and, according to Dean Joseph D. Kearney, promises to transform the student experience and the way the community engages with Milwaukee’s only law school. Overlooking the Marquette Interchange, the building aims to become the symbolic interchange for legal study and public debate in the region. The building was dedicated on Sept. 8, 2010, with United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia providing remarks.

What it means to be green

New buildings around campus not only help serve our students better, but they are also helping Marquette be more environmentally sustainable. Zilber Hall, the new student services and administrative building, and McCabe Hall, a sophomore residence hall, received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification from the United States Green Building Council. Both buildings incorporate unique features to be greener: Water fountains in Zilber Hall have spouts to fill reusable water bottles and showers in the basement to encourage employees to bike or run to work. McCabe Hall incorporated efficient LED lights and furniture made from recycled materials and reused original architectural features, including terrazzo flooring, archways and bronze railings, to save resources.

Marquette will also seek LEED™ certification for the recently completed Law School building, Eckstein Hall, and Discovery Learning Complex, future home of the College of Engineering.