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 Marquette works to stay ahead of upcoming demographic challenges.
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“Such a pause allows us to look back and consider how God has carried us and graced us to get us to the places in our lives today.”

MEGAN SHEEHAN, COMM '09 — SPIRITUAL LEADER OF SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT WRITING @ TODAY.MARQUETTE.EDU



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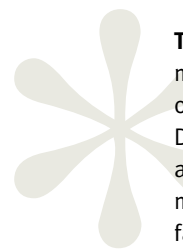
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The university community mourns the heartbreaking loss of Dr. Joseph Daniels, Keyes Dean of Business Administration and a widely admired 30-year member of Marquette's economics faculty. He was fatally struck by a vehicle on a campus-area street on February 11.

"Joe is someone who lived from a vibrant hope. That hope fueled a vision for better things, for being able to change and transform the world around us," said Rev. James Voiss, S.J., at an emotional prayer service attended by hundreds of university colleagues, students and community members the following day.

President Michael R. Lovell

hailed Daniels for leaving "an indelible impact on the field of economics," inspiring students throughout his career and, more recently, rallying a broad community around a new vision for his college, which the university will carry forward in Daniels' memory.

Central to that vision is a \$70 million new home for Marquette Business and university-wide innovation leadership programs, *right*, announced in January. "Every great city deserves a great business school," said Daniels. "A new home will serve as a major catalyst not only for Marquette ... but for Milwaukee and beyond."

HEAVY HEARTS OVER A TRAGIC LOSS



Dr. Joseph Daniels in 2011

GIFTS MADE IN DANIELS' HONOR at give.marquette.edu/joe-daniels will help his family establish a scholarship in his name.



SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MARQUETTE
RIGHT NOW — VISIT MARQUETTE.EDU.

SEEN+HEARD

We were all chosen.
Except you.

MITCH FAIR
SENIOR MAJORING IN WRITING-
INTENSIVE ENGLISH

Lost:
child's tap shoes.
Don't return.

JENNA GREEN
VISITING INSTRUCTOR IN ENGLISH

MORE WITH LESS

How much can a story say in a half-dozen words?

A surprising amount for the 40 brevity-minded authors who participated in the Six-word Short Story Contest as part of the English Department's open house this fall. Pictured are two of five winning entries.



news online

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NURSE

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p. 1; Jesse Lee, pgs. 3, 13; Audrey Lodes, p. 32; Mallory Manfredini, p. 10; John Nienhuis, pgs. 1, 5, 6, 7, 23, 30, 37, 43; David A. Straz Jr. Foundation, p. 2; Giovanni Vargas, pgs. 1, 17, 18, 19.

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TEAM VACCINE

Nursing students including Haley DeGroot administered flu shots — as many as 500 per hour at one point — to members of the campus community, such as freshman Qwanzo Rodriguez, *right*. Supported by the Marquette University Medical Clinic, the immunizations were free to students and fully covered for those with Marquette insurance.



PRESIDENT'S SOCIETY MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

THE POWER TO TRANSFORM LIVES.

There is strength in numbers. When we come together as one, we can do more and have a greater impact. The President's Society at Marquette University is that collective force with annual gifts allowing us to provide a transformational education in the Catholic, Jesuit tradition. Last year, nearly 2,000 members invested more than \$50 million in support of funds that provide scholarships, support research and create opportunity. Make your gift and join the President's Society. Together, we have the power to transform lives.

To learn more about the President's Society, contact Jennifer Niespodziani at jennifer.niespodziani@marquette.edu or 414.288.1506. To make a gift online, visit marquette.edu/giveonline.



**BE THE
DIFFERENCE.**

A

highlight of my fall semester was co-teaching Product Realization, a course for engineering and communication students. (See story, page 12.) I often described my time in the course — where student teams were led through the innovation process and developed a real-world product for corporate sponsors — as my favorite hours of the week. Being in the classroom all semester reminded me of a secret that many university professors don't always share: I learned as much from students as they likely learned from me.

Reflecting on the experience, I came to several revelations about the class and our students:

- It had been nine years since I'd done more than single-class lectures and visits, so I hadn't directly experienced how technological advances have changed the way professors interact with students. Today's technology allows faculty members to more easily connect with students and creates opportunities to share materials, feedback and interventions in real-time.
- Even with new technology, students enjoy actively engaging with course concepts and their teammates. I found that today's Gen Z students were very comfortable jumping in and generating novel ideas with each other. They were also adept at providing and accepting feedback from their peers. These observations excited



At the President's Society Christmas Reception, sophomore Oluwapelumi Oguntade expressed gratitude for the donors who make her Marquette education possible.



me because, in my conversations with business professionals, they frequently say they're seeking out those who are creative and know how to work in teams.

- To my surprise, students are increasingly open and candid with their opinions. During team presentations, they provided each other with plenty of constructive feedback. When I asked for reactions to course activities, I received very direct analysis of what they did and didn't like. In my college days, I never would have said anything negative about coursework in front of my professor.
- Finally, I found students truly interested in experiences that would help them grow personally and professionally. In contrast to my previous experiences teaching the course, I didn't have a single student ask me about a grade or score on an assignment this semester. Rather, they genuinely wanted to learn the course material so they could use their experience to make a positive impact on the world.

I also thought about what, if anything, hadn't changed since I last taught a full course. That one was easy: Students still appreciate when I order pizza to celebrate the last night of class.

Dr. Michael R. Lovell

PRESIDENT

LESSONS

WINGS AND PRAYERS

Butterflies landed across campus during Mission Week 2020, as they did in 2019 — invitations to all to be open to gratitude and to feel the presence of God in all things.



WHAT'S NEW ON CAMPUS & BEYOND

MU/360°



FAITH

mission centered

Jesuit leader brings calm vitality to new role guiding and nurturing mission and ministry at Marquette.

BY TIM CIGELSKÉ, COMM '04, GRAD '18

An avid photographer, Rev. James Voiss, S.J., finds it nourishing to peer deeper into his surroundings. He watches the interplay of light and shadows that others may overlook during busy lives. “I especially like doing macro photography,” he says, “zeroing in so you can

almost feel the texture in an image.”

It’s a fitting hobby for the Jesuit on campus whose new campus role is to plumb depths and help others reflect on their inner lives. As Marquette’s vice president for mission and ministry since January, Father Voiss is charged with nurturing and sustaining Marquette’s Catholic, Jesuit identity.

“The work of mission and ministry is vital for the future of Jesuit education,” Father Voiss says. “Our institutions have emerged from a desire to really shape the minds and hearts of our students in a positive way. That’s really important and becomes increasingly so as there are fewer Jesuits around.”

Father Voiss arrives from Gonzaga University, where he was assistant vice president for mission and served as rector of the Spokane Jesuit community. Before that, he spent 14

years teaching theology at Saint Louis University and earned both a master’s and doctorate in theology from the University of Notre Dame.

Father Voiss speaks warmly and softly in his calming voice, which puts those around him at ease. His demeanor befits someone who has been a Jesuit for 42 years, works in pastoral care and has written extensively on forgiveness and helped people practice it.

Those who know him remark on his peaceful and centering quality. Father Voiss says that comes from doing “a lot of interior work,” starting with himself and then helping others take the same journey. “If we’re going to be sharing the mission with our students,” he says, “it’s also important that we be in that process of ongoing transformation.” ☺



MU/360°



LEADERSHIP

proven provost

After a nine-month national search, Marquette has a new permanent provost and executive vice president for academic affairs: Dr. Kimo Ah Yun, the university’s acting provost since late 2018. A first-generation college student and the first person of color to serve as provost, Ah Yun is focusing on five priority areas: transparent shared governance; an inclusive, diverse campus environment; a student experience grounded in Marquette’s Catholic, Jesuit mission; innovative academic leadership; and proactive responses to higher education’s biggest challenges. Known for an approachable and strategic leadership style, the former dean of the Diederich College of Communication (and former @DeanKimo) now shares updates on Twitter as @ProvostKimo.

ARTS+SCIENCES

across the digital divide

Building on a National Science Foundation-funded project that provides much-needed training in computer science instruction to 200 Milwaukee Public Schools teachers, Dr. Dennis Brylow, professor of computer science, has a new \$2 million grant to study exposure and access to computer science education. As part of the project, a partnership with Sacred Heart University will bolster professional development for 500 MPS elementary school teachers. “This new effort aims to strengthen the existing computer science course work we’ve helped launch in MPS ... while also scaling out to many more of the schools that still have no access,” says Brylow.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

ahead of the curve

Marquette moves to outpace coming disruptions that will leave higher education a very changed place.

BY CHRISTOPHER STOLARSKI

In a packed Alumni Memorial Union ballroom in mid-November, more than 450 Marquette faculty, staff and students riffled through an assortment of picture cards placed on each round table. The assignment was simple; the goal, loftier.

Asking participants to pair images with sentiments about the state of the university, the exercise awakened minds in preparation for a brainstorming session intended to elicit a trove of ideas for how Marquette can best execute its strategic plan, *Beyond Boundaries* — and write its own future.

The event, titled “Think Different, Act Different” in a respectful nod to a famed Apple ad campaign about pushing creative boundaries, came about two months after the university announced a series of cost-cutting measures, including the difficult decision to reduce its workforce. Marquette laid off 24 staff colleagues and will not fill 49 current and future vacant positions.

The move, announced by President Michael R. Lovell on Sept. 5, 2019, was a proactive one to address turbulence in higher education

that is expected to worsen as a seismic demographic shift drives down the number of college-age students over the next decade. These alarming projections had been weighing on him and other campus leaders.

“This is a journey we have been on together for several years,” President Lovell reminded the crowded room, a few moments after showing a news clip revealing how these pressures have already caused some colleges to close their doors. “But the best thing we have going for us is we already have a plan — that plan is *Beyond Boundaries*. We are starting from a position of strength, and we have already been evolving.”

To provide a clearer understanding of the squeeze Marquette and other universities will face, Lovell last summer asked all senior university leaders to read Dr. Nathan Grawe’s 2018 book, *Demographics and the Demand for Higher Education*. In it, Grawe predicts a sharp decline in higher education enrollment starting in 2026 because of the steep drop in birth rates associated with the Great Recession of 2008–2009 when couples put off having children.

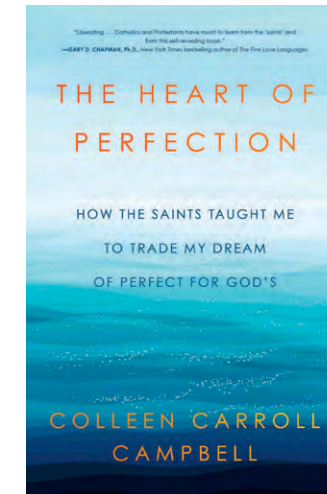
Grawe says the Midwest will be one of the areas hardest hit by population changes, with anticipated declines of 15 to 25 percent in college-age students. The only demographic groups predicted to grow will be those traditionally less likely to enroll in private four-year universities — a trend that adds urgency to Marquette’s efforts to make its campus, academic offerings and admissions practices more inclusive for students from diverse backgrounds and nontraditional learners. This includes expanding online offerings, continuing to pursue the federal government’s Hispanic-serving Institution designation and prioritizing fundraising for student scholarships, among other initiatives outlined in *Beyond Boundaries*.

This enrollment scenario has serious implications for Marquette, where nearly 70 percent of operating revenues come from tuition and room and board fees. Lovell wrote to the campus community in August: “Knowing ... the financial burden that a Marquette education places on many of our students and their families, we know we cannot continue to increase tuition at our recent pace.”

That’s why Lovell, ever the collaborator, brought together hundreds of people around tables in the AMU on that snowy Monday morning: to generate as many creative ideas as possible. “I’d rather have us define what Marquette is than have the market dictate that for us,” he says. “This is an opportunity to evolve to set ourselves up for continued success in the future. The point is we have to plan now — we can’t wait.”

The changes that result may include more online learning to appeal to nontraditional students, expanded corporate partnerships, pipelines involving two-year schools and new academic programs that prepare graduates to work in fast-growing fields. But that may be only scratching the surface. Additional initiatives are underway to optimize use of building space and achieve operational efficiencies.

Innovation, Lovell says, must be ongoing everywhere on campus. A new online ideas portal even allows any member of the campus community to share ideas — big and small — on how to think and act differently amid change in higher education. “We are all responsible for the enterprise of the institution,” he says. “Together, we are creating our future.” ☺



BOOKSHELF

struggles of the saints

BY TRACY STAEDTER

Spiritual perfectionism wears many disguises, says Colleen Carroll Campbell, Arts ’96. Setting impossible expectations, beating ourselves up for past mistakes or doling out hypercritical judgments can derail our journey with God.

Campbell, an award-winning author, journalist and former speechwriter for President George W. Bush, has been there. When career and family pressures pushed her off track, she turned to the Scriptures and saints, starting with a biography of Teresa of Avila that her father gave her when she was a senior at Marquette.

In *The Heart of Perfection: How the Saints Taught Me to Trade My Dream of Perfect for God’s*, Campbell relates how those readings rekindled a passion for Jesus. Weaving together stories of her own challenges with those of the saints, Campbell reveals the hidden battles they overcame on their path to virtue. In Jane Frances de Chantal, who strove for excellence but often felt discouraged and impatient, Campbell found a model for surrendering to God’s will. In Ignatius of Loyola, Campbell discovered methods for overcoming bouts of distraction and desolation.

The book is about freedom, says Campbell: “For readers to recognize themselves in the stories of saints who faced the same struggles, and see those struggles as a potential path to holiness, can be liberating.” ☺

PHILANTHROPY

in memoriam

Former banking executive and university benefactor David A. Straz, Jr., Bus Ad ’65, Hon Deg ’18, passed away in November. His timeless legacy at Marquette includes helping found The Les Aspin Center for Government in Washington D.C., creating the David A. Straz, Jr., Tower residence hall and advancing the Haggerty Museum of Art and the College of Business Administration, which is housed in David A. Straz, Jr., Hall. Read tributes at marquette.edu/straz.





BEYOND BOUNDARIES

NO BRAINER A self-professed sucker for Jesuit schools, Mallory Manfredini didn't hesitate in deciding to study at the Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina. There, she made friends with people from around the world and traveled to natural landscapes that left her struck with "how sacred our planet is." Coffee with professors after class helped fulfill her dream of speaking fluent Spanish. Manfredini, a junior majoring in criminal justice, feels "inspired to someday use Spanish to help others immigrate to the United States."



SERVICE

dream hoops

Reaching a premature end to his college basketball career, Ike Eke extends the gift of the game to his African hometown. **BY TRACY STAEDTER**

Ike Eke had to face a dreaded reality last summer. After a second surgery failed to resolve pain from two lumbar spine fractures sustained during a 2017 practice, his collegiate basketball days were over. "I went through some rough, rough times," he says. "I started praying a lot and talking to my little brother, Chinedu, in Nigeria."

Yet he wasn't done with the sport. That same summer, Eke funded the reconstruction of a rundown basketball court on a military base in his home city of Enugu, Nigeria. He says rebuilding the court — where he played as a tall, skinny kid nicknamed "Antenna" — helped him cope. "Having the idea of doing something big in my community — every time I think about it, it brings me joy," says Eke.

Eke, who moved to the United States to play for the University of Detroit Jesuit High School, was a freshman at Marquette when he got the idea to fix up the court. After receiving permission from the commander of the base, Eke returned to Enugu at the end of

his sophomore year with money he'd saved over the years. He spent weeks working with contractors and driving around the city picking up materials.

Dozens of people watched the construction. And when the court was finished, throngs of kids, young and old, returned to play. Eke, who'd given away basketball shoes on two previous visits home, handed out 60 more pairs.

The change he brought to Enugu inspired Eke to start a nonprofit that will raise college tuition funds for young people there. Retaining his athletics scholarship, he's now a junior studying social welfare and justice. Although his college basketball days are over, Eke maintains a positive spirit. "God has a reason for everything," he says. ☺

"Having the idea of doing something big in my community — every time I think about it, it brings me joy."

MU/360°

SUPPORT

achieving with autism

For the one percent of college applicants on the autism spectrum, dealing with schoolwork, social activities and independent living can be overwhelming. Marquette's On Your Marq program came online this fall to lend a hand. Each student receives assistance from a graduation coach, who helps with course scheduling and academics, and a peer mentor, who helps with social activities and dorm life — skills that can contribute to success during and well after college. "A big piece of On Your Marq is not just getting a degree but gainful employment," says the program's director Emily Raclaw of the Office of Disability Services.



ENDOWMENTS

sun-powered scholarships

Resources for first-generation Marquette students received a valuable boost this fall when SunPower Corp. CEO Tom Werner, Eng '86 and his wife, Suzanne, committed \$5 million to establish the Thomas & Suzanne Werner Endowed Scholars Program for First-Generation Students. The gift also supports RISE, Marquette's award-winning pre-orientation program for underrepresented students. Tom Werner, a member of Marquette's Board of Trustees since 2012, called the scholarship fund a great opportunity to "open wider doors for higher education" and expressed pride that "more first-generation and minority students will now have the opportunity to make a significant impact on the world by attending a great institution... ."



ENGINEERING

creativity engineered

Marquette's best-known collaborator and inventor takes to the classroom. BY GUY FIORITA

Students in last fall's Product Realization course benefited from having an expert at the front of the classroom — a member of the National Academy of Inventors, the holder of seven patents (and 14 provisional patents), and a chief executive of a major Milwaukee employer to boot.

Yes, that expert was Marquette President Michael R. Lovell, co-teaching his first course since joining Marquette. Lovell developed the course in 2001 while on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh, putting into practice his research showing that teams incorporating diverse perspectives are more creative. The Marquette version paired engineering students with peers from the Diederich College of Communication. Together, they developed products from concept to prototype for industry partners such as Husco and ITW.

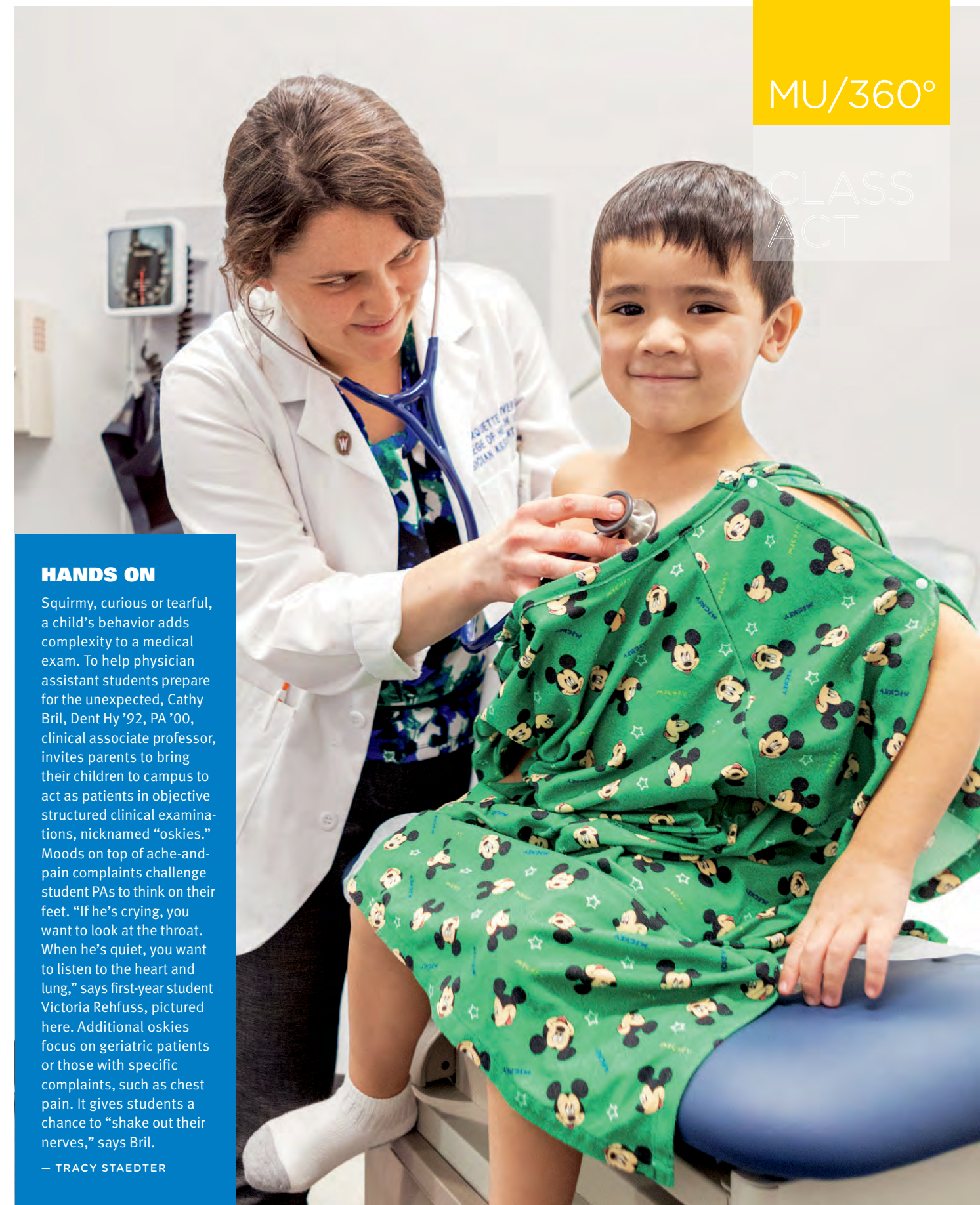
As part of a collaborative effort, teaching duties were shared between President Lovell

and Dr. Alex Francis. As a student, Francis took the course from a professor who was one of Lovell's first students. "It's like working with my academic grandson," jokes the president.

"We are the tip of the spear of innovative processes, and that is exciting for both of us," says Francis, by day a senior engineer at Rexnord, another course partner.

Junior engineering student Jack Eddinger, whose group developed a handheld water sampling unit for A.O. Smith, says Lovell's presence influenced his decision to take the course. "As an engineer, his credentials are unmatched. Plus, it's really cool that the president of my university cares enough about students to make himself so accessible."

For Lovell, the course was “the best 2 ½ hours of my week”—and an essential learning opportunity. “These students grew up with iPads in their cribs. They learn and approach things differently than I did. “If I’m not attuned to this, it’s hard for me to make the right decisions about the future of our campus.” ☺



CLASS ACT

HANDS ON

Squirmy, curious or tearful, a child's behavior adds complexity to a medical exam. To help physician assistant students prepare for the unexpected, Cathy Bril, Dent Hy '92, PA '00, clinical associate professor, invites parents to bring their children to campus to act as patients in objective structured clinical examinations, nicknamed "oskies." Moods on top of ache-and-pain complaints challenge student PAs to think on their feet. "If he's crying, you want to look at the throat. When he's quiet, you want to listen to the heart and lung," says first-year student Victoria Rehfuuss, pictured here. Additional oskies focus on geriatric patients or those with specific complaints, such as chest pain. It gives students a chance to "shake out their nerves," says Bril.

— TRACY STAEDTER

COMMUNICATION

before the bulldozers

In the new documentary *Remembering Bronzeville*, Dr. Karen Slattery, professor of journalism and media studies, and her husband, Mark Doremus, trace the remarkable arc of — and capture memorable personal stories from — Milwaukee’s original African American community. Though shaped by segregation, Bronzeville became a vibrant center of commerce, culture and night-life before state highway builders demolished much of it in the mid-1960s to make way for I-43. The film aired on Milwaukee’s PBS station in November and received a Social Justice Story Award from Milwaukee’s No Studios. As a scholarly sequel, Slattery will research news coverage of the neighborhood during its heyday from the 1940s to the 1960s.



A REMINDER TO NOTICE

what I nearly missed

Surviving the anxious, last-minute quest for perfect.

BY GARRETT GUNDLACH, S.J.

Wednesday morning, I got an email: We’re in agreement that you’ll lead the music, right? My stomach dropped, my heart skipped and my brain kicked into panic mode. Two

things stress me more than anything else: last-minute responsibilities and responsibility for music. But the one safeguard I had from total stress shutdown was Thursday’s event itself: an interreligious, intercultural prayer service for our parish and our local refugee community — all my favorite things. All the more reason it needs to be perfect, said the panic.

The day was awful. Stress stole every hope, and spikes of panic minimized every progress; every step forward felt somehow like four steps back. Every musician I managed to muster just reminded me of the musician I didn’t have, the guitarist’s yes reminded me of the flutists’ nos, and the last-minute generosity of these volunteers only heightened my guilt for the

last-minute asks. Music done well is a simple, beautiful gift. But it is also a gift that I do not have. I can pick songs and print sheets, but I needed lots of help — and for *tomorrow night*.

Yet the night was incredible. The music wove well with the prayer — the cello, candles and soft singing a full flip from the preceding day’s chaos. But honestly what sticks, looking back, isn’t any of that. And it wasn’t even the volunteers’ generosity. It’s all the people who “interrupted” me Wednesday. They probed past my dismissive “*ça va pas trop*” (it’s not going so well). They somehow miraculously got me to sit down and talk. They helped me see how my skewed accounting of musicians and tunnel-vision panic were fueled by this double Achilles’ heel situation. Their interruptions were the only prayer I was capable of then, each an invitation back to the hopes and gratuities my anxiety hid away. ☺

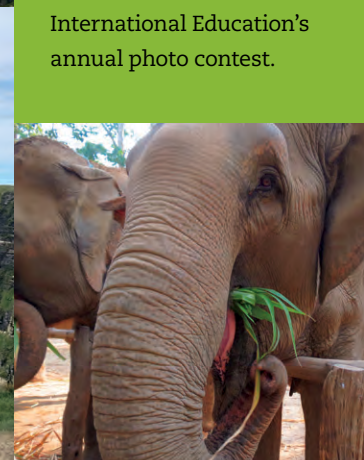
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Before moving to France for studies, Jesuit Scholastic Garrett Gundlach, S.J., Arts ’09, taught at Red Cloud High School on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.



CURATED
WORLD WANDERS

From camel riding in Morocco to chilling beneath the northern lights in Norway, Marquette students who study abroad discover themselves while exploring amazing new worlds, like those captured in these winning selections from the Office of International Education’s annual photo contest.





**ALUMNA AISHA
ALFADHALAH
USES VALUES
FROM HER
HOMELAND
—AND DISHES
FROM AROUND
THE WORLD —
TO HELP
RESETTLED
WOMEN FIND
EMPOWERMENT
IN AMERICA.**

BY LORA STRUM

It's a cold night in November when Aisha AlFadhalah, H Sci '13, leans out the front window of her bright silver food truck and hands a young woman a steaming empanada.

"You don't need sauce," AlFadhalah assures her customer. "They're really saucy."

Saucy empanadas, a vegetable soup simmered with a proprietary blend of spices and fan-favorite *chicharron y yuca* — all made fresh-to-order by chef Anna Figueroa — are what's on the menu at the latest Baltimore food truck pop-up from Mera Kitchen Collective.

AlFadhalah co-founded Mera Kitchen Collective, a co-op that employs refugee and immigrant women as chefs serving their community, in 2017 to inspire these women to find financial independence and to alleviate some of the loneliness of being a stranger in a strange land. The desire for purpose and community was something AlFadhalah, a Kuwaiti immigrant, knew firsthand from her experience as a freshman at Marquette University in 2010.

"When I came to Marquette, I didn't even know what Wisconsin was," she laughs.

It was her first time in America, in the Midwest, and of course, in college. From her freshman year roommate she found things she held dear from her childhood, like sharing groceries and eating family style, were not necessarily a part of the American lifestyle. At 18, she felt confused and alone.

"I was an outsider," AlFadhalah remembers.

"I couldn't find myself."

THE WORLD IS HER KITCHEN



ALFADHALAH
HELPS OTHERS FIND
WHAT SHE
FOUND — A SENSE
OF PURPOSE IN
A NEW LAND.



Friends and business partners AlFadhalah, Iman Alshehab, center, and Emily Lerman, far right, considered immigrant and refugee women adjusting to new lives in the United States and asked: “How can we use food to build community?”



Seeking any kind of community, she adopted a new mantra: “I just said yes to everything that came to me.” That included saying yes to her first Pop-Tarts, to joining the rowing team, to experiencing snow, to double-majoring in speech therapy and Spanish — all things that didn’t exist in Kuwait.

After venturing down several paths, some good (Pop-Tarts) and some not (rowing), AlFadhalah found her community in Marquette’s Office of International Education. There in the office’s lounge and meeting space in Holthusen Hall, she felt finally understood by other students who’d lived or studied abroad. They’d bond discussing idiosyncrasies of their new country, like “finding out the word for an eraser in the U.S. is not ‘a rubber,’” AlFadhalah says with a smile. In her second active year there, she began organizing events to support other international students like her.

This cross-cultural crash course in American ways helped AlFadhalah navigate her new country, including a cross-country move to Baltimore to work with children with autism spectrum disorder at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. When not at the institute, AlFadhalah — trilingual in Arabic, Spanish and English — volunteered with the International Rescue Committee and worked closely with recently resettled women. These women reminded AlFadhalah of her early days in America, when she too knew no one. Seeking a way to build camaraderie, she discovered that, no matter what language these women spoke, everyone understood the value of a meal.

Inspired, AlFadhalah collaborated with two friends — Iman Alshehab, a chef who fled her native Damascus after the Syrian civil war erupted in 2011, and Emily Lerman, an accountant with a passion for public service. Together, they asked: How can we use food to build community?

The answer was a for-profit co-op that employed refugee and immigrant women as chefs preparing traditional meals for the community. This business model allows the women to own a stake in the company and exercise equal voting rights in determining the company’s future. This business structure, in contrast to an aid-based service, is designed to empower the women who dedicate their time and to show the community they’re to be taken seriously. “What I wanted to do with Mera was change the idea of being a newcomer from a deficit to an asset,” AlFadhalah says.

The idea for Mera’s first event — a traditional Syrian meal served family style — was sourced from AlFadhalah’s childhood in Kuwait, where family and friends often ate shoulder to shoulder. “You can’t eat without sharing (in Kuwait),” AlFadhalah says. “Sometimes we’d even share the same plate.”

Twenty-five people paying \$20 a plate packed AlFadhalah’s home for that first dinner. AlFadhalah knew then that Mera could be profitable, and most importantly, was poised to grow. To help refine the idea, AlFadhalah and the Mera team sought mentorship from the Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures’ Social Innovation Lab, which tutors social entre-

preneurs in venture building to help solve problems in the world. Marquette’s own Social Innovation Initiative is an ally.

As a member of the lab’s 2017–2018 cohort, AlFadhalah was able to build the community connections and self-confidence needed to support her vision. Two years later, Mera has expanded to offer a host of cuisines, including Middle Eastern, El Salvadorean and West African, and to manage up to three catered weddings, parties or festivals a night. It’s also a very popular food truck option in town.

This particular night, its roving, food truck is parked outside Fadensonnen, a chic-looking wine bar nestled among the twisting streets of downtown Baltimore, ready to serve the tipsy, hungry masses. “I really like it when they’re here,” says Ben Zimmerman from behind the bar at a bustling Fadensonnen. “We get more traffic, and everything they’ve ever made is delicious.”

Zimmerman rattles off favorite dishes — chicken peanut stew, falafel — that have been big hits. But Mera is about more than just good food. Its business model offers women like chef Figueroa — who left El Salvador seeking opportunity and safety — financial independence using a skill they already possess.

“I have four kids,” Figueroa explains while stuffing empanadas with a mixture of rice and milk. “I want to support them. I want to one day own my own food truck.”

Mera’s chefs are paid equitable wages, well above the state minimum wage of \$10.10 and more than expected in the culinary arts where non-English speakers are often relegated to low-paying positions. “Immigrants in the restaurant scene are usually offered positions dishwashing,” AlFadhalah says. “At Mera, they become chefs.”

They’re also women in a profession whose biggest stars — Gordon Ramsay, Emeril Lagasse, Wolfgang Puck — are men. But Mera turns the tables by organizing business opportunities around other responsibilities women may have, such as childcare. AlFadhalah hopes in the future Mera can include a multilingual day care to allow its chefs to work more

[READ ABOUT MERA’S COLLABORATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN @ BIT.LY/MERAKITCHEN.](https://bit.ly/merakitchen)

hours. They’re currently expanding with the help of the Baltimore Creatives Acceleration Network where, as fellows, they now have access to financial and legal services needed to expand.

For now, AlFadhalah and her two co-founders keep Mera lean but strong, putting the majority of what they make back into the business and really focusing on each chef individually. Figueroa says that since she has joined Mera, her children see her differently. She’s not just the person who puts dinner on the table every night, but a business woman. “A superhero,” AlFadhalah says.

AlFadhalah’s own family dynamic has changed as well. “My parents sent their ‘star’ to America to be a lawyer or a doctor, and here I was in food,” AlFadhalah says, explaining how she kept Mera a secret from her parents for fear of disappointing them.

But today, dedicating 30 hours a week to Mera while working full time helping children with autism better communicate, AlFadhalah knows a lot of what she wants to accomplish can be done with food. She not only told her parents about Mera, and delighted in their support, but wishes her grandmother — who instilled in her the value of feeding and serving others — could have known about it too.

“Tracing it all back,” AlFadhalah pauses, tearing up, “it’s the essence of my ancestors. It’s my roots.”

AlFadhalah continues to serve her roots as the night wears thin and more customers weave down the stairs from Fadensonnen toward the food truck and its aroma of sizzling spices.

AlFadhalah passes plates through the food truck window, chatting easily with Figueroa, Lerman, passersby and bar staff. It’s a wonder that someone who a few years prior felt so isolated can appear so comfortable now. She credits that to Mera and its food. “Food is a universal way to say I love you,” AlFadhalah says. “I can go anywhere now.” ☺



Mera Food Kitchen, the co-op co-founded by AlFadhalah, not only operates a very popular Baltimore food truck and caters weddings and other events, but it also employs immigrant women as chefs making good wages.

Images photographed at Alma Cocina Latina.

Seeking a way to build camaraderie, AlFadhalah discovered that, no matter what language these women spoke, everyone understood the value of a meal.



DEAR
READERS,
COME ALONG
TO MIDDLE-
EARTH.



When a 40-year-old woman from Milwaukee discovered she had a brain tumor and then endured a breakup with her fiancé, she fell into a depression. She felt alone and feared she wouldn't wake from the surgery needed to remove the growth.

To calm her fears, this woman turned to something that had long stirred her imagination and been a presence in her life: the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien. As a child, she'd immersed herself in *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. As a young adult, she'd become enthralled by the movies directed by Peter Jackson. She'd even played the parts of elves in internet role-playing games.

Struggling with her prognosis, she began listening to meditative music inspired by the stories of Middle-earth. The melodies helped pull her through. Before her surgery, she placed a photo of the character Thranduil, king of the

elves, in the intensive care unit so it was the first thing she saw when she regained consciousness.

She will likely bring Thranduil along for future procedures. "I will have radiation for a second brain tumor, but I am counting on Tolkien's influence to get me through the hardship," she says.

The woman's story of finding hope and strength in the works of Tolkien is one of hundreds of anonymous narratives that have been audio-recorded, transcribed, numbered (hers is No. 216) and put online as part of Marquette's new Tolkien Fandom Oral History Project. In these recordings, collected by Raynor Memorial Libraries archivist William Fliss, fans speak about how Tolkien's works have inspired them to overcome adversities, make new friends, learn new languages, seek out life-affirming careers and reconnect with God.

**A NEW ORAL HISTORY PROJECT ASKS
6,000 DEVOTEES OF J.R.R. TOLKIEN'S
WRITING TO EXPLAIN HOW HIS WORKS
HAVE INFLUENCED THEIR LIVES.**

BY TRACY STAEDTER

FAN FELLOWSHIP

FLISS HAS SET A GOAL OF COLLECTING 6,000 RECORDINGS—A NUMBER THAT NOT COINCIDENTALLY MATCHES THE NUMBER OF TOLKIEN’S RIDERS OF ROHAN, WHO PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE *RING* TRILOGY’S CLIMACTIC BATTLES.



The themes in the stories of J.R.R. Tolkien (1892–1973) resonate across age, gender and culture. Hundreds of fans visit Raynor Memorial Library annually to view its collection of original Tolkien manuscripts, artwork and other memorabilia.

“Tolkien provides a means for people to get perspective on their lives,” says Fliss. He launched the project not only to archive the hows and whys of Tolkien fans, but also to make searchable, downloadable text and audio available to scholars of fan studies, a relatively new area of research.

“The popularity of Tolkien in the United States is seen as unprecedented, and yet there has been very little work studying this response to an author’s work,” says Dr. Robin Anne Reid, a professor of English at Texas A&M University–Commerce, who conducts fan reception studies and is a notable Tolkien scholar. “The archive will jump-start reception work in Tolkien studies.”

The oral history project builds, of course, on the Raynor Memorial Libraries’ famed J.R.R. Tolkien collection. It owes its existence to William B. Ready, who was hired as director of libraries in 1956 to stock the newly built Memorial Library. Recognizing *The Lord of the Rings* as a masterwork well before its mid-1960s explosion in popularity, Ready made a shrewd call. Shortly after arriving at Marquette, he reached out to Tolkien through a rare book dealer to inquire about the manuscript. He negotiated a price of \$4,900 to acquire it, the original manuscripts of *The Hobbit* and *Farmer Giles of Ham*, and unpublished illustrations for a children’s book, *Mr. Bliss*. After Tolkien’s death in 1973, his son Christopher sent Marquette more of his father’s writings. The collection became important enough that its holdings were highlights of “the most extensive displays of Tolkien material in several generations”—2018’s Tolkien: Maker of Middle-earth exhibition in Oxford, England.

Marquette’s collection has swollen over the years, with additions of books on Tolkien, press clippings, journal and anthology articles, audio and video recordings, and dissertations. Marquette also stocks a rich collection of fan-generated content, including poems, songs, dramatizations and more than 270 fanzines dating back to the 1960s.

And these artifacts representing so-called fandom are sparking the interest of scholars—a bit belatedly, says Dr. Gerry Canavan, associate professor of English, focusing on 20th and 21st century literature. “Scholars were so hung up on the idea of the creative genius for so long that it took a while to realize that readers had interesting relationships to texts too,” he says.

When Fliss became curator of the Tolkien collection in 2012, he wanted to position the archive as one that fan studies scholars could tap for their research. The collection had the fanzines, but those mainly represented fandom to the end of the 20th century. After that, the content normally found in fanzines moved to the internet. Fliss could periodically archive webpages, but wondered if there might be some new way to harness fan expression. The answer was right under his nose.

A

bout 800 Tolkien fans visit Raynor Memorial Libraries each year. They see scanned copies of those original manuscripts, view drawings Tolkien made, listen to audio and video recordings about the author or peruse the fanzines. On occasion, Fliss would stop and talk with the fans. Sometimes, he’d learn that they’d come all the way from Europe or Asia. They’d talk about their deep affection for Tolkien and how his works resonated with them. “I came to

be really impressed by how diverse the fans were, by their stories and by how much this author has affected their lives,” says Fliss. He realized that to really document fandom, he should try to capture the voices of the fans he regularly encountered. That’s what he did.

Fliss’ approach to the project is methodical, his interview procedures carefully defined. After each participant signs a consent form, in-person interviews are recorded one-on-one by Fliss in a private setting. Fans who live outside Milwaukee can set up an appointment online with Fliss, who then records them via video conferencing. He asks the same three questions each time: When did you first encounter J.R.R. Tolkien’s work? Why are you a Tolkien fan?



What has he meant to you? He limits the answers to no more than three minutes in total.

Fliss has set a goal of collecting 6,000 recordings—a number that not coincidentally matches the number of Tolkien’s Riders of Rohan, who play a pivotal role in the *Ring* trilogy’s climactic battles. So far, Fliss has uploaded three “éoreds,” a word used to describe the Riders’ companies of 120 horse-mounted soldiers. Aiming toward his goal, he is partnering with translators to include the voices of fans who do not speak English and will be setting up a booth at Tolkien-themed events and conferences, enlisting volunteers to help schedule and translate recordings.

The project’s narratives are available online as text and audio that can be downloaded and analyzed by digital humanities scholars. But, anecdotally speaking, Fliss is already seeing some themes emerge. Many interviewees say they’ve come to the works of Tolkien through a family member. The value of friendship resonates throughout the narratives, as does bravery and hope. People seem to turn to Tolkien in times of trouble, to deal with difficult situations.

Interviewee No. 175, a 35-year-old female, is a good example. When she was 11 years old, she and her parents escaped the Bosnian War in the former Yugoslavia and lived modestly as refugees in Germany. They moved around often, and she didn’t have many friends. As a gift, her father bought her the Tolkien trilogy, lying to her mother about how much it cost.

The girl devoured the books, reading more than 1,200 pages in 20 days. “It changed a lot of things for me to kind of have that other world to go into. It built confidence for me,” she says. To this day, she remains a fan. “I read the trilogy either in German or in English once every two years, just to kind of bring me back to where I’ve been and what I’ve been through,” she says.

In collecting these reactions to this legendary imaginary realm, Marquette’s oral histories are revealing insights about how humans make meaning of our world. For some, Tolkien’s work invites the exploration of something deeper. “I am a person of faith; I’m a Christian,” says interviewee No. 76, a 26-year-old man from Tennessee. “I was wrestling with my faith journey and reading Tolkien’s works brought me closer to my faith journey, brought me into deeper understanding of my faith.”

For many, the trials, tribulations and triumphs of Tolkien’s fellowship led by Frodo Baggins and his trusted hobbit sidekick Samwise Gamgee help them create their own narratives. “They ask, ‘What would Samwise do?’” says Fliss. “It gives them a moral lens with which to navigate the world.” ☺

William Fliss, curator of Marquette’s Tolkien collection, is capturing the voices of contemporary Tolkien fandom in a way that can be mined by scholars for decades to come.

TO RECORD YOUR TOLKIEN STORY FOR MARQUETTE’S ARCHIVES, REGISTER AT MARQUETTE.EDU/TOLKIENFANDOM.

**STUDENTS TRAVEL
2,000 MILES FOR
MARQUETTE'S
SILICON VALLEY
EXPERIENCE, WHERE
ALUMNI SET A
BREAKNECK PACE
OPENING DOORS,
SHARING INSIGHTS
AND MAKING
THEM FEEL LIKE
INSIDERS.**

BY STEPHEN FILMANOWICZ

Tom Werner, Eng '86, is having an especially busy day. His schedule as CEO of SunPower — the maker and installer of the world's highest-efficiency solar energy systems — is so packed this fall Thursday, he barely has time for his next meeting.

But the visitors waiting in a glass-paneled conference room at SunPower's headquarters are too important to reschedule.

"Hello. Glad you're here," he says, slipping into a chair at the end of the table where the guests are clustered — six Marquette undergraduates who have traveled from Milwaukee for a true inside view of Silicon Valley, as provided by leading tech executives like Werner.

Despite his tight time limit, the CEO has plenty to pass on. He helped create the two-year-old initiative that brought the sextet here — the Silicon Valley Experience coordinated by Marquette's Kohler Center for Entrepreneurship — to strengthen the talent pipeline between Marquette and the world's innovation capital, to help promising students learn from and tap into the region's increasingly robust alumni network.

So, for the next 24 minutes, the students see their new surroundings through his expert eyes. The string of low-rise communities stretching from San Jose to San Francisco comes alive as an "ecosystem" that excels in turning ideas into startups and the best of those startups into market changers that reimagine much of our modern lives. Born of a design breakthrough by a brilliant Stanford engineering professor who found the necessary financial backing and right management team (led by Werner) to take the company public in 2005, and then keep innovating, SunPower is one of those former startups turned market leaders.

THREE DAYS IN TECH LAND



VISITING THE
"ECOSYSTEM"
THAT TURNS
IDEAS INTO
INNOVATIONS.

“The way of working here is not haphazard. It’s about finding — and solving — customer problems. Fall in love with the problem first, understand it and then figure out a way to solve it.”

Strengthening the talent pipeline between Marquette and the world’s innovation capital, the experience engages students in a dozen unique encounters linked by hundreds of miles of van travel.

Before turning things over to two top managers for a headquarters tour, the chief executive even personalizes his take on the Valley, so the five Marquette seniors and one junior can better imagine themselves here. For computer engineering major Natalie Kalinowski and computer science major Nathan Ireland, he touts the data science boom that is “digitizing everything, including energy.” For Parker Dow, he extols the crucial role mechanical engineers

play protecting SunPower solar cells “from hail and 100 mile-per-hour winds.” For Seamus Herson, there’s excitement about the lucrative rewards at the end of lengthy approvals for biomedical engineering startups.

And for Ashlyn Adams and Jake Brozynski — majoring in marketing (and entrepreneurship in Brozynski’s case) — there is respect for a subject Werner underestimated back in school. “I couldn’t have been more wrong,” he admits. “At some startups, it’s like, wow, as a marketer, you’re the most important person because you can take the concept and make it relevant to somebody who’s going to pay money.”

The second company visit of their three-day trip is packed with wisdom. In their final minutes with Werner, the students return the favor in the best way possible. They ask a series of savvy questions — about the company’s IPO and its culture, about reducing end-of-life waste from solar panels and other topics — that show him they’re feeling ever so slightly like parts of this ecosystem themselves.

A STARTUP IS BORN — MARQUETTE STYLE

The Silicon Valley Experience got its start not in an incubator — or a garage like Apple — but at a 2017 leadership dinner with President Michael R. Lovell attended by Werner and other Silicon Valley alumni. There and in conversations that followed, the tech leaders began connecting some interesting dots. Alongside its unparalleled clustering of entrepreneurs and innovators, the San Francisco Bay area also boasts the nation’s largest concentration of Marquette alumni outside of Milwaukee and Chicago, a network rich with leadership and valuable connections. The ingredients could be there, they thought, to create a signature program — a Silicon semester akin to the Aspin Center’s government-oriented program in Washington, D.C. With much coordination from Dr. Sissy Bouchard, senior philanthropic adviser, and Megan Carver, Comm ’08, associate director of the Kohler Center for Entrepreneurship, the three-day experience emerged as a more practical but still ambitious step, and it debuted over Marquette’s 2018 fall break.

Preparations for the second installment of the Silicon Valley Experience got rolling last spring when 60 students answered the call to compete for six coveted spots. Written applications and short videos helped a team — Carver, Dr. Eric Waters, assistant professor of communication studies, and Kate Trevey, Bus Ad ’04, a director of leadership programs in the Opus College of Engineering — select the students. The students then met weekly with Carver early last fall to discuss assigned reading, update their LinkedIn profiles, network with previous-year program participants and research the companies participating in the experience.

THURSDAY > 10.17 > 8:20 A.M. HILTON GARDEN INN > PALO ALTO

Six hours after reaching their hotel in the wee hours of the Thursday of fall break 2019, the students are downstairs for breakfast. Waiting for them is Victor Szczerba, Eng ’89, an executive who became something of an architect of the experience. He delivers a rousing opening lecture that helps the students understand the roles played by the firms — startups, market disrupters, venture capital firms, tech giants — whose doors he and fellow alumni will open for them. Szczerba overflows with enthusiasm both for student mentorship and for the Valley culture that

hooked him in the early ’90s, its embrace of risk and new ideas making the more conventional business climate of his native Chicago seem stifling.

A series of innovation waves — silicon chips, networking, mobile apps and now artificial intelligence — and positions ranging from general manager at a software giant to founder of his current startup, Yeti Data, have only stoked his passion. Still, one of the most memorable takeaways from this opening chat concerns rigor not passion. “The way of working here is not haphazard. It’s about finding — and solving — customer problems,” he advises them. “Fall in love with the problem first, understand it and then figure out a way to solve it.”

THURSDAY > 10.17 > 9:35 A.M. BAYLANDS PARK > SUNNYVALE

The students’ first Valley encounter is with a true startup, Cape. CEO Chris Rittler, Eng ’86, persuasively describes the firm’s efforts, with special Federal Aviation Administration clearance, to reconceive of drones as resources controlled remotely via laptops — as first-responders to crime scenes, for example. In the field, senior Jake Brozynski takes command of a Cape drone — a special thrill since his experience running a profitable aerial photography business, Inflight Drone, strengthened his application for this experience. (Dr. Henry Medeiros, an engineering faculty member along for the experience, also uses drones in his research with intelligent imaging.)

After stories back at the office of Friday barbecues and adventure outings from Cape’s tight-knit team — tighter after the firm adjusted its business model and got leaner in 2019 — students are intrigued with the dynamic, if fluid, startup environment. “As a young person, now may be the time to take a risk,” says Seamus Herson, whose interests extend to sustainable energy and sustainable transportation, “rather than being 55 and regretting you never did it.”

THURSDAY > 10.17 > 6:00 P.M. SHERATON > PALO ALTO


Ashlyn Adams was intrigued with first-day visits to a startup, clean power leader and software colossus, but wondered if the coming days would bring her a better fit. “Things start clicking,” for her as early as that evening’s Marquette Circles networking event for Northern California alumni.



Adams co-moderates a panel discussion and asks questions of Aparna Bawa, Bus Ad '99, general counsel of videoconferencing firm Zoom Video. By night's end, the pair make a real one-on-one connection and the general counsel talks openly about becoming an advocate for Adams at her company, a hot workplace since Bawa helped guide it through that peak Silicon Valley event, an IPO, last April.

Fellow student Natalie Kalinowski scores another valuable connection at Circles — after a great conversation, the mother of a Marquette freshman promises her a bed at their home in nearby Mountain View when she returns to the Valley for job interviews.


FRIDAY > 10.18 > 9:05 A.M.
SEQUOIA CONSULTING > SAN MATEO

 This fast-growing firm's employee benefits solutions put it in a sweet spot for the visiting students, who are naturally curious about issues such as work-life balance and career development. In a stylish conference room with mountain views, Jonathan Moore, Sequoia's youthful director of product marketing, spells out the challenge facing the firm's tech-centric clients. "For every two job postings in the Valley, there is one candidate," he says.

In response, Sequoia, originally an employee benefits broker, has evolved rapidly into a tech-savvy retention specialist, partnering closely with clients such as Dropbox to make their workplaces and benefits experiences so good that employees will stay well beyond the 1.5-year Valley average.

In the lobby afterward, with students sold on Sequoia as an attractive employer itself, Seamus Herson gets laughs sharing news that he's already added Moore on LinkedIn. "It's not your typical Silicon Valley company, says the arranger of the visit, a pleased Victor Szczerba. "And they don't hire typical Silicon Valley workers. In addition to hard skills, they want soft skills. A Marquette graduate grounded in the liberal arts — that's really what they want."

FRIDAY > 10.18 > 11:45 A.M.
SHOREBIRD PARK > FOSTER CITY

 During some downtime between visits, Dr. Henry Medeiros, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering and a faculty adviser accompanying the students from stop to stop, gets them to open up with a probing question: What if they received identical offers from each of the firms



visited so far? Which would they choose?

With a mild Bay breeze blowing, Natalie Kalinowski quickly identifies Sequoia's people-focused innovation culture as a deciding factor. "I don't want to just clock in and clock out, and not have anything out of it other than a paycheck. I want to have those relationships with customers and the people I'm working with," she says.

Parker Dow sees unique strengths in each but feels especially drawn by SunPower's leadership in addressing a colossal challenge. "They're creating a product with also a big, big goal in mind — less reliance on fossil fuels and a move toward renewable energy."

FRIDAY > 10.18 > 8:30 P.M.
EMBARCADERO WHARF
SAN FRANCISCO

 The rented van containing six students, two university guides, Medeiros and other guests crisscrosses the San Francisco Bay area, treating the students to 12 distinct experiences. Sissy Bouchard — the university advancement official who coordinated the conversations that spawned the experience — drives the van and Megan Carver of the Kohler Center serves as navigator. Both share guidance all the while and observe up close the effect of the experience on the students. "The three days ignite a passion for solving problems and seeking knowledge," says Carver. "It equips the students with the insights, expanded network and tools they need to succeed in the innovation economy after graduation."

Other highlights include a couple of hours at Microsoft's "Garage" collaboration space hosted by Christine Matheney, Eng '13, and Peter Haubold, Bus Ad '89; and a visit to SoftBank, "the most disruptive checkbook in the Valley," says Szczerba. Some memorable conversations occur over meals, including a lunch with young alumni; a dinner hosted by Victor and Jolanta Szczerba, an Uber executive, at their home; and a closing dinner and reflection led by Denelle Dixon, CEO of Stellar Development Foundation, and Harvey Anderson, Eng '84, deputy general counsel of Hewlett-Packard and an early experience champion. And the last stop? A group photo with one of San Francisco's iconic bridges in the background; the students insist on it.

"In addition to hard skills, they want soft skills. A Marquette graduate grounded in the liberal arts — that's really what this employer wants."

ONE MONTH LATER
707 HUB > MARQUETTE CAMPUS
MILWAUKEE

Stranded in Denver by a flight delay on their return trip, the students talked about the intense days they just shared and how they'd keep alive the close bonds they'd formed. Before they arrived home, they had their answer, one that feels especially appropriate to their situation. "What's the natural thing to do to stay connected with people?" jokes Parker Dow. "Start a business, right?"

Showing how closely they listened to Szczerba and other new mentors, they've found a problem in need of fixing — an online group that started as a basketball ticket exchange for Marquette students but devolved into a chaotic bulletin board where non-students hawk everything from cars to furniture. A month later, they're still going strong, meeting most Friday afternoons in Marquette's 707 Hub to work on plans for The Marquet, a secure, convenient platform where students can quickly find other students offering exactly what they need from tickets to books to rental subleases. The technology could even be transferable to other universities or businesses, they believe. "We're all from different majors," says Jake Brozinski. "Each of us brings a different value to the team."

Their weekend in Silicon Valley hasn't left them with any delusions about an easy path ahead for their startup — task No. 1 will be determining if revenue streams from students or advertisers will be enough to support the service. But already, there are signs the experience itself is paying off dearly. "Before I went out there, I didn't have any clarity about what life was like after school," says Nathan Ireland. "After the trip, I have a clearer view of where I can go after I graduate."

Now if only they could truly explain what happened to others. "As I'm telling people about it, it's like I can't even put the trip into words," Ashlyn Adams says to her trip mates at one of the Friday sessions. "It's like only you guys understand what we actually experienced." ☺



What's the best way to stay connected with people after an experience like this, asks one of the students. "Start a business, right?" The startup the students are working on would create an efficient online student marketplace for basketball tickets, books and rental subleases.

TO LEARN MORE OR SUPPORT THE EXPERIENCE, CONTACT MEGAN.CARVER@MARQUETTE.EDU.



Creating a startup for an entrepreneurship course, **Mae Haggerty**, Bus Ad '19, reflected on a rocky start to college—illness, academic setbacks, a night alone in Chicago after getting separated from friends—and the resulting strain on her mental health.

BY CHARLOTTE HOLLEY

Those reflections provided the inspirational spark for Confidence, the venture she launched with classmates to furnish thoughtfully crafted care packages encouraging stressed college students to nurture themselves. A hit from the start with loved ones of colleagues in need, Confidence continues today, post graduation. Boxes are curated and assembled by the Confidence team—Haggerty and fellow graduates Jonathan Constantine, H Sci '19, Isaac Feil, Bus Ad '19, and Pan Roumeliotis, Arts '19. Emphasizing mindfulness, each box contains items such as tea, eucalyptus oil, journals and always a handwritten note. A winner of the Brewed Ideas Challenge of Marquette's 707 Hub, Confidence was later

KNOW SOMEONE WHO'D BENEFIT FROM A CARE-FILLED BOX?
Learn more about this Marquette-grown company at confidencecompanybox.com.

profiled on *Good Morning America*. Another high point was a note received from a grateful box recipient who recommended the group go on the show *Shark Tank*—"proof that our business means something more than just business," says Haggerty. While working days as an account executive in Milwaukee, Haggerty keeps Confidence rolling. Its focus remains on college students—for now. "We talk about expanding into different styles of boxes for different major life transitions and situations," she says. "We just want to spread awareness of healthy ways to prevent stress before it occurs." Brightening lives one day, one box at a time. This is the essence of Confidence.

Marquette Magazine and the Alumni Association accept submissions of news of personal and professional achievements and celebrations for inclusion in "Class Notes." Alumni news may be submitted electronically or by mail for publication in print and online. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for content, accuracy and length. Publication of the achievements of our alumni does not constitute endorsement by Marquette University.

REUNIONS!

Alumni from years ending in 5 or 0, this is your reunion year. **Learn about Homecoming/ Reunion Weekend** at marquette.edu/alumni.

REUNION YEAR

- 60** **Donald R. Laub**, Med '60, is the author of *Second Lives, Second Chances*, an aid in helping students select a career path.
- 64** **Dennis F. Herrick**, Jour '64, published his ninth book, *Esteban: The African Slave Who Explored America*.

REUNION YEAR

- 65** **Patricia A. (Scharber) Lefevere**, Jour '65, was awarded a fellowship in the Inspired Leadership Initiative program at the University of Notre Dame for academic year 2019–20. She lives in South Bend, Ind.
- Tom Schultz**, Sp '65, published his fourth book, *Meister Bräuser*, which chronicles the history of the early 1960s championship-winning racing team of the same name. Dalton Watson Fine Books of Chicago is the publisher. All four of his books have focused on auto racing, his lifelong passion.

- 67** **John T. Timm**, Grad '67, retired after 37 years in radio station management and ownership. He resumed teaching in 2011 and retired in spring 2019 as assistant professor of communications and Spanish at Arizona Christian University.
- 69** **Michael G. Felt**, Sp '69, Grad '71, was elected chairman of the board of trustees for a fourth term at Halifax Community College in Weldon, N.C.

- 74** **Philip Gloudemans**, Arts '74, received the David Sherman Community Strengthening Award along with 27 other former board members of the Lynch/vanOtterloo YMCA in Marblehead, Mass., where Gloudemans lives with his wife, Karen McLaughlin, Arts '75.

REUNION YEAR

- 75** **Lisa Clay Foley**, Med Tech '75, received the 2019 Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund Distinguished Service Award. Foley recently retired after serving more than 30 years as a public interest lawyer.

Daniel Silvestri, Grad '75, has launched a website and podcast, "Spy Movie Navigator," that caters to spy movie enthusiasts.

- 77** **Therese Zink**, Arts '77, received a Fulbright Scholar award.

- 79** **Sheri Colas-Gervais**, Sp '79, was promoted to vice president and executive director of Miami Community Ventures, which aims to reduce poverty, unemployment, recidivism and crime in underserved communities. Colais-Gervais will lead the initiative's full launch in Miami-Dade County.

SO TELL US ...
TAPPING INTO POSITIVE THINKING

Research by **Dr. Abir K. Bekhet**, associate professor of nursing, finds that positive thinking improves resilience in the face of challenges, such as caring for a person with special needs. Practice it using her suggestions.

Interrupt negative thoughts

Learn and then tap into relaxation methods, such as breathing exercises, meditation, music or yoga when problems arise.



Break it down

Focus on untangling small parts of a large knot. Each little victory will provide a sense of achievement, reduce feelings of helplessness and install confidence.

Practice

When faced with challenging situations, reinforce what you've learned.

Stephen McDonnell, Bus Ad '79, was installed as 2019–20 president of the Minnesota Dental Association at the association's annual meeting in Duluth. He serves on the MDA's Board of Dentistry Task Force and the Scientific Session Committee. He has served as a past president and past trustee of the Saint Paul District Dental Society, and has served on the Council of Dental Education and Licensure of the American Dental Association. He has also been active in the charitable organizations Union Gospel Mission Dental Clinic and Give Kids a Smile.

Marla Thompson, Sp '79, received a doctorate of business administration from Columbia Southern University in Orange Beach, Ala. She teaches marketing, business, ethics and corporate social responsibility, and diversity courses at Life University.

81 **Nancy (Cusick) Baldino**, Jour '81, was named director of communications for the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, Washington, D.C.

Peter M. Jonas, Grad '81, '89, published his fourth and fifth books: *Soccer Is Fun Without Parents* and *Transforming Learning: Don't Let School Interfere with Your Laughing*.

82 **Dorothy "Dottie" M. Arimond**, Bus Ad '82, was inducted into the Hall of Fame of Archbishop John Carroll High School in Radnor, Pa.

John Galvin, Jr., Arts '82, joined the St. Louis office of Thompson Coburn LLP. He previously was the founding partner of the firm formerly known as Fox Galvin LLC. Galvin has represented U.S. and international

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Committed to learning through experience, **Audrey Lodes**, Arts '19, took a logical step. After earning her degree in international affairs with minors in Arabic and peace studies, she moved to Cairo. Through an American University in Cairo fellowship, she works in university administration, hones her Arabic and navigates life in the ancient Egyptian capital. "I came to be out of my comfort zone, and I've done that," says Lodes, who misses her family but relishes new experiences such as sleeping under the stars in the desert and finding downtown Cairo's best shawarma.



clients in major litigation and multi-district litigation in Missouri and beyond, and has served on national trial teams and as national settlement counsel.

Mary (Sullivan) Josephs, Arts '82, founder and CEO of Verit Advisors and a recognized authority on family and private company finance, was named to *Crain's Chicago Business's* 2019 Notable Entrepreneurs List. It includes 44 business people who have identified needs and opportunities in the market, organized and run companies, and taken on greater-than-normal financial risk.

83 Jeffrey R. Grossman, Arts '83, is head of collection services at the university library of Xavier University.

84 Kevin Ingram, Bus Ad '84, Grad '02, received *The Milwaukee Times* Community Leadership Black Excellence Award.

Nancy (Koch) Ketchman, Arts '84, was named director of

foundation and corporate relations in the Department of Institutional Advancement of Carroll University in Waukesha, Wis.

Andrew J. Wylie, Arts '84, was reelected to his fourth term as Clinton County District Attorney in November 2017. Wylie was initially elected in 2005 and has had three subsequent uncontested elections.

86 Robyn (Sosnowski) Berkley, Arts '86, published the textbook, *Strategic Training and Development*, with her friend and co-author, David Kaplan. Sage Publications is the publisher.

88 Robert J. Bembenek, Jour '88, joined Liturgical Publications in New Berlin, Wis., as an advertising sales executive.

Douglas R. Krieser, Eng '88, was elected international president of the American Society of Appraisers. An appraiser for over 30 years, he is the managing director of Valcon Partners, Ltd., a consulting and valuation firm headquartered in East Dundee, Ill. He is an accredited senior appraiser of the ASA and a fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. Krieser is also a contributing author and editor of three editions of *Valuing Machinery and Equipment: The Fundamentals of Appraising Machinery and Technical Assets* published by the ASA in 2005, 2011 and 2019.

89 Michael Baxendale, Sp '89, co-hosted *Bax & O'Brien LIVE*, a stage version of the long-time *Bax & O'Brien* radio show, at the historic Academy of Music in Northampton, Mass. The sold-out show featured comedians, musical acts, videos and surprise elements. *Bax & O'Brien*

will celebrate 25 years on WAQY in Springfield, Mass., in 2020.

91 Dominic P. Scibilia, Grad '91, is series editor of *Teaching Ethics across the American Educational Experience*, published by Rowman and Littlefield Educational Publishing.

92 Karen P. (Emery) Rushby, PT '92, was elected to the board of directors of the Lymphology Association of North America. She serves on the association's School Standards Committee and is the Northwest Region liaison.

93 Angie L. (Hafemeister) Molkentin, Comm '93, is the author of *My 180: Loving God More*, published by Northwestern Publishing House. The book is a candid account of her spirit-led journey from a lukewarm faith life to a heart full of love for God and others.

Lisa (LaMore) Nelson, Arts '93, opened Life Lift Coaching & Transition Services in Milwaukee, and serves as a divorce doula and personal coach for college and career transitions.

John N. Williams, Grad '93, was promoted to president of Prairie City Bakery. He previously was vice president of marketing and innovation.

94 Nicholas A. Celozzi, Comm '94, is CEO of Monaco Films and producer of more than 20 films including *Kickboxer: Vengeance*.

Jennifer (Lay) Riske, Comm '94, a producer at WMAQ in Chicago, has been nominated for a Midwest Emmy in the best evening newscast category for producing "Aurora Shooting" and "The Day After the Mercy Hospital

THE GREATER GOOD



RETIRED NO MORE MELITA BIESE

ARTS '67, LAW '80

Biese was happily retired from a career as a litigator and law firm partner when she learned of the work being done at the Milwaukee Justice Center and decided to get involved. It took two years to earn 75 hours of continuing education credits to reactivate her lapsed law license, but Biese began faithfully spending her Thursdays offering free legal advice to the underprivileged. "Our clients have strived and saved for years to get ahead," says Biese, the center's Attorney Pace Setter in 2017, "so when they run into trouble, there's no money for lawyers. They need and deserve our help." ☺

DAILY DIFFERENCE

Every day brings **Anthony Gasper**, Eng '68, far left, an opportunity to give to his community. From leading the military veterans ministry at his church to fundraising for veterans charities or running a computer lab at the Salvation Army Shelter in Atlanta, he is involved in nearly two dozen volunteer programs. A Marine Corps veteran and a Marquette Navy ROTC alumnus, Gasper says, "When God calls us home, he only asks, 'Is the world a better place because of your actions?'" For Gasper, the answer is clear.

NOMINATE A SPECIAL ALUM making a daily difference @magazine.marquette.edu/share.

Shooting." She has also been nominated for contributing to her station's spot news coverage of the "Aurora Workplace Shooting."

96 Brian Faherty, Comm '96, played an ill-fated corrections driver in the season seven premiere of Showtime's *Ray Donovan* and shot dice with Midge on the third episode of season three of Amazon's *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.

97 Craig G. Hulce, Grad '97, was named to the CFA Institute Practice Analysis Working Body. Hulce has been a member of the CFA Institute since 2004 and is a doctoral student in finance and financial technology at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Michael Wolaver, Arts '97, owns Magellan Promotions, which was named a Future 50 Company by the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce's Council of Small Business Executives.

98 Daniel J. Finerty, Law '98, a shareholder with Lindner & Marsack, S.C., was appointed

to the Native Nations Law Task Force by The Voice of the Defense Bar. The task force provides networking and educational opportunities for defense litigators, tribal in-house counsel and insurance companies called upon to defend native nations faced with civil lawsuits where the parties often find themselves in tribal jurisdictions, subject to the unique laws and customs of a tribal justice system.

98 Nicole (Tuog) Jennings, Bus Ad '98, was named chairwoman of Badger Honor Flight and leads a team of more than 500 volunteers focused on a singular mission: providing WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War and terminally ill veterans the "Trip of a Lifetime." Badger Honor Flight is a regional affiliate of the national Honor Flight Network and works to ensure that veterans have the opportunity to see the memorials that have been erected in their honor.

99 Kimberly Eberl, Comm '99, is the founder and CEO of Chicago's largest independent, woman-owned marketing agency, Motion, which has acquired Remedy, a branding and design consultancy focused on health, wellness and social change.

Jean P. (Sands) McKiernan, Comm '99, joined Dovetail Consulting Group as a managing director. She has nearly 20 years of global industry experience in the pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device fields. She is an expert in risk consulting and compliance operations. Prior to joining Dovetail, McKiernan consulted in the pharmaceutical and life sciences risk consulting practice of Pricewaterhouse Coopers for 12 years.

Rachel K. Monaco-Wilcox, Arts '99, Law '04, became female champion and placed second overall in her first 100-mile ultramarathon in the November 2019 T-Bunk Endurance Challenge in La Grange, Wis. She finished the marathon in 22 hours and 18 minutes, three minutes behind the lead finisher.

REUNION YEAR

00 Frank Bates, Arts '00, PT '02, received the 2019 F.A. Davis Award for Outstanding Physical Therapist Assistant Educator from the American Physical Therapy Association. The award recognizes physical therapist assistant student educators who have demonstrated and exhibited a noteworthy level of commitment to physical therapy education and physical therapist assistant students and to advancing, promoting and upholding standards of academic excellence. He also earned board certification in geriatric physical therapy from the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties in 2018.

02 Sara Elizabeth Dill, Arts '02, Law '05, was named the International Bar Association's Arab Region liaison officer for war crimes and international criminal law, and will speak at a conference in London on her work on the conflict in Yemen, including peace efforts and post-conflict justice and rebuilding.

04 Jeffrey Bodle, Bus Ad '04, and **Marlee (McKenzie) Bodle**, daughter Rose McKenzie born on Feb. 28, 2019. **Dave Bodle**, Arts '74, and **Mary (Steudel) Bodle**, Arts '75, are the proud grandparents.

DEEDS NOT WORDS

CONNECTING NETWORKS



In key regions across the country, Marquette alumni, parents and friends at all career levels build their networks and share professional expertise through the popular networking program, CIRCLES. In

partnership with Titledown Tech and Kate Burgess, Comm '91, CEO and owner of Elevate97, last fall's CIRCLES event in Green Bay, Wisconsin, cranked up the networking power, offering a keynote address by the chief brand officer of Carhartt and a lively panel discussion on business landscape disruption and creating business purpose. Current students often attend CIRCLES, giving them a crash course in networking and a start in forming their own Marquette-connected circles.

Visit alumni.marquette.edu/circles to find a CIRCLES program near you.

ALUMNI CLUBS

WHAT'S SHAKIN'?

See all upcoming events and make the scene! Visit marquette.edu/alumni.



NEW YORK

Men's Basketball Big East Tournament

March 11-14, 2020

For game times, visit alumni.marquette.edu/marchwithmarquette.

Pre- and postgame celebrations at Mustang Harry's

CIRCLES New York

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Museum of Modern Art Tour

Friday, March 13, 2020

MINNESOTA

Forward Marquette

Sunday, March 15, 2020

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

CIRCLES Southern California

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

WISCONSIN

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Alumni Reunion Weekend
June 5-7, 2020

ALL REGIONS

Ignatian Lenten Reflection

Online series daily during Lent
alumni.marquette.edu/lent-retreat-20

Nicole (Krubsack) Claas, Comm '04, and **Brian Claas**: daughter Grace Adeline born on April 23, 2019. She joins big sister Cecelia Joy.

Phillip W. Ventura, Comm '04, was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the United States Air Force and selected to command the American Forces Network-Pacific, headquartered in Tokyo. In this role he will lead 250 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines across Japan, Korea, Diego Garcia and Hawaii in the creation and distribution of multimedia content designed to entertain and inform U.S. service members and their families via radio, television and social media platforms. This is the seventh move he and his wife, **Brigid (Brohier) Ventura**, Bus Ad '04, have made together since meeting at Marquette and embarking on a life of military service together.

REUNION YEAR

05 Kathleen M. (Mahowald) Broich, Comm '05, and **Thomas Broich**: daughter Margaret Angela born June 5, 2019. She joins brother William, 4. The family lives in Edina, Minn.

Michael P. Cosgrove, Arts '05, and **Melissa Cosgrove**: daughter Amelia born June 3, 2019.

06 Crystal (Szabo) Loftus, Comm '06, and **Patrick Loftus**, Eng '07, wed Nov. 22, 2019, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. They first met in 2002 as freshman chemistry lab partners and reconnected again in 2017. The couple lives in Oconomowoc, Wis., with their two dogs.

Emili (Ballweg) Miller, Eng '06, and **Brian Miller**, Bus Ad '06: daughter Clara Gearin born





AWAY WE GO

Ireland's holiest mountain, Croagh Patrick in Mayo County, beckoned **Edward Manning**, Arts '84, and his family, including son John, a Marquette senior. They joined fellow pilgrims on Reek Sunday to honor St. Patrick, who spent 40 days fasting there in the fifth century. "Although the weather was less than optimal when we reached the summit, once Mass started and we finished Communion, the weather cleared and the hike back down was spectacular," reports Manning.

Aug. 15, 2019. Clara joins big brother Colin. The family lives in the Twin Cities.

👉 **Samantha M. (Carle) Throckmorton**, Comm '06, and Steven Throckmorton: son Maverick Parker born July 19, 2019. He joins brother Tristan.

👉 **Katie (Michalkiewicz) Wagner**, Comm '06, and Mike Wagner: son Henry Patrick born May 16, 2019. He joins brother Charlie.

07 👉 **Ashley (Lupo) Cajthaml**, Comm '07, was promoted to national sales manager at Spectrum Reach. She will manage cable and digital advertising sales for Kansas City and Nebraska markets. She has worked at Spectrum Reach for over nine years in various positions.

♥ **Kathleen (Falk) Cleveland**, Nurs '07, and Joe Cleveland, wed May 26, 2019. Sister of the bride, **Maura Falk**, Nurs '13,

was the maid of honor. About 50 Marquette alumni were in attendance.

👉 **Elizabeth (Bodle) Karow**, Nurs '07, and **Chris Karow**, Eng '06: son Harry Wolfgang Karow born on April 4, 2019. **Dave Bodle**, Arts '74, and **Mary (Steudel) Bodle**, Arts '75, are the proud grandparents.

Richard T. Orton, Arts '07, joined the law firm Gass Weber Mullins LLC as counsel in its Milwaukee office. He is a trial attorney, focusing his practice on products liability, general liability, professional liability and commercial law, as well as construction and insurance litigation and appeals.

👉 **Janet (Gary) Sornberger**, Arts '07, and Adam Sornberger: son Henry George born July 29, 2019.

👉 **Sarah (Schmitt) Walker**, Arts '07, and Scott Walker: son Jason Thomas born January 2019. He joins big brothers David and Kyle.

08 👉 **Anne (Talafuse) Rothenbach**, H Sci '08, PT '10, and **Samuel Rothenbach**, Eng '08: daughter Analiese Clare born July 8, 2019. She joins siblings John, Marko and Colette.

09 👉 **Brittany (Clement) Frassetto**, Comm '09, and **Mark Frassetto**, Arts '10: son Peter Joseph born Oct. 4, 2019. He was 8 pounds, 11 ounces and 23 inches. He joins sister Caroline, 5, and brother Paul, 3.

Nkozi Knight, Prof St '09, was one of eight judges and one of two Marquette alumni who served on the panel for the inaugural Mr. and Mrs. Black America Pageant hosted in Brookfield, Wis.

♥ **Christine N. (Gratz) Pitrof**, Arts '09, and **Alex Pitrof**, Arts '09, wed April 26, 2019, in Milwaukee. They met at Marquette in 2008.

Nicole (Larson) Tieman, Comm '09, joined the Government Operations team at the Boeing Co. at its Washington, D.C., location. She previously served on the Senate Finance Committee under Chairman Chuck Grassley.

REUNION YEAR

10 **Courtney M. (Sampson) Arango**, Comm '10, accepted a position as spokesperson and media manager for AES utility company in Indianapolis. She previously served as communications director for Indiana's governor.

♥ **Becky (Moylan) Hoffman**, Comm '10, and **Peter Hoffman**, Arts '10, wed May 25, 2019, at SS. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church in Detroit. The celebration included more than 20 Marquette alumni.

👉 **Melissa B. (Batzner) Krische**, Bus Ad '10, and **Brian Krische**, Eng '10: son Connor Thomas born April 26, 2019. He weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 inches long. He joins sister Jenny. The family lives in Franklin, Wis.

♥ **Katie (Lyons) Lentz**, H Sci '10, PT '12, and Jordan Lentz, wed Aug. 10, 2019, in Columbus, Ohio.

♥ **William H. Ruben**, Comm '10, and Lisa Daul, wed Aug. 24, 2019, at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Ill.

Austin M. Ryan, Edu '10, was appointed head coach for Fairfield University's Men's Rugby Club. The program competes

POP QUIZ



STUDENT LEADER
SARA MANJEE
BRIDGES TWO KEY ACRONYMS, EOP & MUSG

Creative, driven and the daughter of Pakistani immigrants, Manjee is the first Marquette student government president to participate in the university's Educational Opportunity Program for first-generation and low-income students.

What led you to run for student government president?

This was a journey of discernment. I bounced around a lot between majors and programs, pushing myself to engage in many activities and showing up in different spaces to listen and learn. I wanted to see the MU student experience improved and eventually I asked myself, "If not me, then who?"

How has being an EOP student affected your approach to serving on MUSG?

I owe it to the program for providing me with a sense of community on campus. My presidency aligned with EOP's 50th anniversary and gave me the chance to bring to light the experiences that students in EOP, and students like me, face.

What new actions have you implemented?

We've added a chief of staff position to support student organizations. We now hold formal legislative sessions every other week, alternating them with our new Think Tank Initiative, which gives all students the ability to collaborate with senators. We are also deepening partnerships with the local community and expanding networking events to connect minority students to underrepresented professionals in greater Milwaukee.

What advice do you have for incoming EOP freshmen?

No matter what anyone says, this campus belongs to you. You have to seek out and pursue everything that you can at Marquette, because especially now, you have the ability to lean on programs like EOP when times get tough. They will keep pushing you forward, as long as you don't take your time here for granted.



Thirty years of military service took U.S. Navy Capt. **James "Jimmer" Sullivan**, Bus Ad '82, to six continents and 34 countries.

BY TRACY STAEDTER

He had a wonderful naval career but felt compelled to stay active. "I knew that whatever I was going to do in retirement, I wanted to have some impact," he says.

He became a high school teacher. Since 2012, Sullivan has worked as the senior naval science instructor in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps at North Buncombe High School near Asheville, North Carolina — a civilian program requiring no military commitment. Classes center on leadership, patriotism and citizenship. Beyond academics, students participate in marching drills and physical fitness.

Sullivan loves seeing his students mature from tentative freshmen into confident seniors. He recalls one young man, initially shy and a

head shorter than most of his peers. "By the time he graduated, he was captain of the drill team," he says.

Teaching is a calling and not for everyone, says Sullivan. Some of his students dislike high school, and they don't always do what's asked of them or succeed at every task. But unlike the military, where blunders can have huge consequences, mistakes here are opportunities to learn. "You have to give them freedom to fail," says Sullivan, who was named North Buncombe's Teacher of the Year this fall. "At the end of senior year, when I get to see those individuals walk across the stage, that's what it's all about. I have a great sense of accomplishment."

TELL US ABOUT AN ALUM JUMP-STARTING A NEW CAREER
@ MAGAZINE.MARQUETTE.EDU/SHARE.

in USA Rugby's Division 1A as a member of the Liberty Conference.

Megan C. Wholey, Comm '10, joined the Wholey Poitras Group at Robert W. Baird as a financial adviser, leading client engagement and advising young professionals and female investors.

11 ♥ Nathaniel J. Wojan, Law '11, and Noel (Zettler) Wojan, wed Oct. 12, 2019, in Wausau, Wis. Many Marquette alumni and students were in attendance. The Wojans reside in Appleton, Wis.

12 ♥ Lauryn (Berry) Firkus, Nurs '12, Grad '14, and **Nathan Firkus**, Bus Ad '11, Grad '17, wed July 13, 2019, at Church of the Gesu followed by a reception at the Wisconsin Club. Many fellow Marquette graduates were in attendance. The couple met as undergraduates at Marquette and both went on to get their master's degrees at Marquette.

Jason Dejna, Bus Ad '12, Grad '13, was promoted to manager within the asset management tax practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Paige M. (Grove) Lathrop, Arts '12, and Tyler J. Lathrop: daughter Ada Marie born March 30, 2019. She was 7 pounds, 2 ounces and 20.5 inches.

13 ♥ Anthony Fabris, Bus Ad '13, and **Stacy Scheffer**, Bus Ad '14, Grad '18, wed in September 2019 in Milwaukee. The couple met during their time at Marquette. Many Marquette alumni were in attendance to celebrate the wedding.

♥ Charlotte (O'Halloran) Morrone, Bus Ad '13, and **Vince Morrone**, Law '14, wed at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee, with a reception at Discovery World. The couple met in Milwaukee after graduating and bonded over memories of their time at Marquette. Many alumni were in the wedding party and in attendance.

♥ Caroline C. (Kolter) Nash, Bus Ad '13, Grad '14, and Jordan Nash, wed Aug. 24, 2019, at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee.

Alexandra K. Reveles, Arts '13, graduated with a Ph.D. in clinical counseling and school psychology from Utah State University in August 2019. She is working as a psychologist resident at Strong Integrated Behavioral Health in Corvallis, Ore.

14 ♣ Alexander Bartel, Arts '14, and **Alexandra Ponce de Leon**, Nurs '15: daughter Solenne Isabella born Aug. 29, 2019. She is the couple's first child. The family lives in Chicago.

Aaron J. Ledesma, Comm '14, accepted a position at the new Cristo Rey Richmond High School in Richmond, Va. He leads all of the school's communication efforts and has returned to his Jesuit roots to help transform Richmond one student at a time.

♥ Brittany (Riesenbeck) Penn, Bus Ad '14, and Nathan Penn, wed Sept. 1, 2019.

Tommy Walls, Arts '14, was named executive director at Communities in Schools in High Point, N.C.



REUNION YEAR

15 ♥ Maureen (Boyle) Connor, H Sci '15, PT '17, and Daniel Connor, wed Aug. 17, 2019. Many Marquette alumni were in attendance.

♥ Christina (Robertson) Ghelfi-Thomas, Bus Ad '15, and **Andre Ghelfi-Thomas**, Eng '16, wed Aug. 31, 2019, at St. Hedwig Three Holy Women Parish, with a reception at Saint Kate arts hotel. Several alumni were in the wedding party and numerous others were in attendance.

♥ Alexandra Ponce de Leon, Nurs '15, and **Alexander Bartel**, Arts '14, wed May 26, 2018, at Wayfarer's Chapel in Palos Verdes, Calif. The couple lives in Chicago.

16 Gilberto N. Vaquero, Comm '16, was selected by Credit Union National Association as a 2019 Credit Union Rock Star. He is featured on the cover of the fall 2019 issue of *Credit Union Magazine*.

MARQUETTE
CONNECTS

After her Las Vegas parish, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, started holding Mass in its new sanctuary in 2018, **Laura Barrette**, Bus Ad '02, got to know a small group of women. Separated in age by nearly a half century, but sitting in nearby pews week after week, they found plenty to chat about. It took almost a year for Barrette and one of the women, **Patricia (Abolt) Nesbitt**, Sp '55, to mention their Midwestern hometowns and, in turn, their mutual alma mater. As their friendship attests, wherever you are in the world, your connection to Marquette may be just a pew away.



LET'S CELEBRATE THESE ALUMNI MILESTONES

Send your photo of the happy couple or newest addition to your family. We'll share as many as possible here on the "Milestones" page.

1 Becky Moylan, Comm '10, and Peter Hoffman, Arts '10; **2** Alexandra Ponce De Leon, Nurs '15, and Alexander Bartel, Arts '14; **3** Anthony Fabris, Bus Ad '13, and Stacy Scheffer, Bus Ad '14, Grad '18; **4** Henry, son of Katie (Michalkiewicz), Comm '06, and Mike Wagner; **5** Miller, son of Kevin Ford, Arts '89, and Lindsey Ford; **6** Maureen (Boyle), H Sci '15, PT '17, and Daniel Connor; **7** Katie (Lyons), H Sci '10, PT '12, and Jordan Lentz; **8** Clara, daughter of Emili (Ballweg), Eng '06, and Brian Miller, Bus Ad '06; **9** Caroline (Kolter), Bus Ad '13, Grad '14, and Jordan Nash; **10** Charlotte (O'Halloran), Bus Ad '13, and Vince Morrone, Law '14; **11** Brittany (Riesenbeck), Bus Ad '14, and Nathan Penn; **12** Christine (Gratz), Arts '09, and Alex Pitrof, Arts '09; **13** Eli, son of Courtney (Kerin), H Sci '04, Grad '06, and Michael Murray; **14** Ada, daughter of Paige (Grover), Arts '12, and Tyler Lathrop; **15** Lauryn (Berry), Nurs '12, and Nathan Firkus, Bus Ad '11; **16** Christina (Robertson), Bus Ad '15, and Andre Ghelfi-Thomas, Eng '16; **17** William Ruben, Comm '10, and Lisa Daul; **18** Cousins Rose, daughter of Jeffrey, Bus Ad '04, and Marlee Bodle, and Harry, son of Elizabeth (Bodle), Nurs '07, and Chris Karow, Eng '06; **19** Solenne, daughter of Alexandra Ponce De Leon, Nurs '15, and Alexander Bartel, Arts '14; **20** Maverick, son of Samantha (Carle), Comm '06, and Steven Throckmorton.

Photos must be 300 dpi at 2 x 3."

IN MEMORIAM

1930s Robert L. Coon, Grad '39, Grad '72
1940s Alice M. (Young) Breaker, Nurs '41; James M. Krummel, Bus Ad '41; Catherine M. Schwartz, Arts '41, Grad '44; Helen D. (Dahnke) Lassa, Dent Hy '43; Arthur H. Lowenthal, Dent '43; Donald L. Bell, Eng '45; Shirley (Wollock) Goldman, Dent Hy '45; Joseph I. Hamel, Med '46; Patricia (Joyce) Kraniak, Arts '46; Marilyn H. (Ball) Meyer, Arts '46; Anthony E. Thein, Jour '46; James F. Kirschling, Bus Ad '47, Law '49; Robert H. Love, Dent '47; Alphons Pitterle, Bus Ad '47; George W. Koch, Bus Ad '48, Law '51; Herbert L. Usow, Law '48; Sheldon W. Wilkins, Dent '48; Kathleen M. (Pfaller) Bonner, Dent Hy '49; Richard F. Cibulka, Eng '49; William H. Gill, Bus Ad '49; Mary E. (Ahmann) Hallett, Sp '49; William R. Heiser, Arts '49; Sylvia F. (Feronas) Jafferis, Sp '49; Loretta M. (Smukowski) Kloss, Arts '49; Gerald E. Mantych, Bus Ad '49; Howard T. Markwardt, Bus Ad '49; Dorothy A. (Mahowald) Quirk, Arts '49; Mary J. (Butterbrodt) Smigielski, Nurs '49; Thomas W. Tiefenthaler, Eng '49

1950s Joseph P. Braun, Bus Ad '50; Thomas J. Gerend, Arts '50, Med '53; Richard D. Low, Dent '50; Mary Kay (Meely) Luby, Sp '50; Alfred Neukuckatz, Eng '50; Jacob J. Schwartz, Arts '50; Richard L. Suter, Eng '50; William T. Wambach, Eng '50; John H. Weir, Bus Ad '50; Edmund A. Barbeau, Eng '51; Joseph R. Brigante, Med '51; Giles T. Clark, Bus Ad '51; Marita D. Kenna, Med '51; Kenneth T. Kloiber, Eng '51; Edgar L. Makowski, Arts '51, Med '54; Melvin G. Pfeifer, Eng '51; James R. Ricketts, Eng '51; Richard O. Rupnow, Arts '51, Law '53; Jean F.

IN
MEMORIAM

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'56; Fern M. **Klug**, Nurs '56; George E. **Lardner**, Jour '56, Grad '62; Joan F. (Bielins-ki) **Lennon**, Sp '56; John F. **O'Donnell**, Jour '56; Gregory J. **Piette**, Eng '56; George H. **Poggemann**, Dent '56; Rita C. **Roberts**, Nurs '56; Gordon E. **Schaefer**, Bus Ad '56; Peter F. **Wegmann**, Bus Ad '56; Veronica (Klus) **Yates**, Med '56; Lawrence J. **Bossman**, Eng '57; Gordon A. **Egelseer**, Arts '57; James H. **Kasdorf**, Arts '57, Eng '63; George B. **Kearney**, Bus Ad '57; Richard A. **Lies**, Bus Ad '57; Lewis J. **Mathers**, Eng '57; Robert J. **Nikolai**, Eng '57; Jean A. (Springs) **Schaaf**, Jour '57; William L. **Scheer**, Dent '57; Viola G. (Grebler) **Schmidt**, Bus Ad '57; Carl H. **Schrank**, Jour '57, Grad '91; Lucille J. (Lattanzi) **Tripoli**, Arts '57; Eunice F. (Frindell) **Biller**, Arts '58; Mary Ellen (Duffley) **Cowser**, Med Tech '58; Ralph P. **Doto**, Bus Ad '58; William R. **Drew**, Arts '58, Law '66; Robert B. **Duncan**, Bus Ad '58; Herman J. **Dunker**, Bus Ad '58; Thomas J. **Frohna**, Arts '58, Grad '62; Paul C. **Krueger**, Arts '58; Robert J. **Krueger**, Bus Ad '58; John B. **Werra**, Bus Ad '58, Law '61; Leslie T. **Chen**, Med '59; Gary W. **Gross**, Bus Ad '59; John E. **Gross**, Arts '59; Walter S. **Hofman**, Dent '59; Patrick J. **Kelly**, Eng '59; Douglas H. **Lenicheck**, Bus Ad '59, Law '62; James M. **McNamara**, Bus Ad '59, Grad '65; William P. **Miller**, Bus Ad '59; Eugene E. **Revolinsky**, Eng '59; John S. **Sauer**, Med '59; Fred A. **Schoendorf**, Bus Ad '59; George D. **Shields**, Bus Ad '59; James A. **Weiland**, Dent '59; George J. **Winandy**, Arts '59

1960s Mary P. (Burg) **Curtis**, Nurs '60; Gregory J. **Dettlaff**, Bus Ad '60; Maureen R. (Wilwerding) **Duffy**, Grad '60; V. Joseph **Fasulo**, Arts '60; Robert H. **Fenske**, Bus Ad '60; Patricia A. **Fruin**, Arts '60; Paul M. **Hellmich**, Bus Ad '60; Nellis K. **Klein**, Grad '60; Gordon A. **Nickchen**, Eng '60, Grad '74; Glenn A. **Patton**, Arts '60; Elise M. (McHugh) **Penny**, Arts '60; Robert M. **Savrnock**, Bus Ad '60; Sr. Agnes G. **Schoeneberger**, Grad '60; Arthur J. **Sugiyama**, Med '60; Jay E. **Wichmann**, Eng '60; Marilyn K. (Smittkamp) **Blas**, Dent

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THE GAME OF LIFE



1

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There is nothing more important than local journalism. It provides the only true link to communities that would otherwise suffer without independent, evidence-based journalism that shines a spotlight on those who are doing good things — and those who are not.

2

How do you balance championing the positives with reporting on struggles?

It's not hard. We intentionally place an emphasis on the ordinary people who do extraordinary things. We serve as a watchdog for their issues. I feel journalism is akin to looking in a mirror. We can see bad things, but of course, there are good things too.

3

How have you changed as an editor since your Tribune days?

I've always seen journalism as my mission in life. I've always wanted to inform — and to transform. The only difference is I have less hair but, remarkably, the same energy and focus. God has smiled on me. And I just return His smile.

4

After working with grizzled veterans, how do you feel about having students on your staff?

Students bring enthusiasm and a new way of looking at things that older folks take for granted. I am happy to share my experiences with them but also to learn from them.

Winning strategies for living with meaning

Ron Smith, Prof St '05, Grad '09

Editor, Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service

As an undergraduate in the late 1980s, Ron Smith was the first African American editor of the *Marquette Tribune*. His office in Johnston Hall became a launching pad to some of the most exciting newsrooms in the country, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsday*, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and *USA Today*. Now he is back in Johnston as editor of Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service, guiding a corps of professional and student journalists telling the stories of often overlooked Milwaukee neighborhoods.

Reported by Guy Fiorita

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1970s William P. **Bluege**, Grad '70; Richard W. **Boelter**, Bus Ad '70, Law '72; J. Ric **Gass**, Law '70; Joseph M. **Larkin**, Arts '70; Patrick J. **McAleavey**, Arts '70; Richard L. **Merki**, Jour '70; George R. **White**, Grad '70; Karen A. (Petit) **Morrison**, Arts '71; Richard L. **Sanders**, Grad '71; Larry C. **Smith**, Grad '71; Sandra C. **Weber**, Sp '71, Grad '72; William F. **Barry**,

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Law '88; Helen (Sanford) **Jacobs**, Grad '87; Christine E. **Robertson**, Grad '87; Ronald S. **Florentino**, Eng '88; Roberta L. (Plotz) **Gorman**, Arts '88, Grad '92; Joseph J. **Hill**, Comm '88; Joseph M. **Mikolajczak**, Arts '88; Kevin B. **Roels**, Eng '88

1990s Martin J. **Sendera**, Eng '91; John K. **Gage**, Arts '93; Thomas A. **Ruesch**, Grad '93; Quincy T. **Scaggs**, Comm '94; Mary B. **Gosline**, Grad '95, '00; Andrew N. **Niemiec**, Eng '96

2000s Susan E. **Callies**, Law '01; Susan E. **Opalka**, Comm '02; Cerissa R. **Bauer**, Dent '03; Jeremy S. **Janssen**, Eng '05, Grad '07; Sarah E. **Peterson**, Nurs '07; Jason N. **Kuharske**, Arts '08; Jarrod D. **Widmann**, Law '11; Mary Ann **Pieters**, Grad '12; Ryan M. **Birbiglia**, Bus Ad '14



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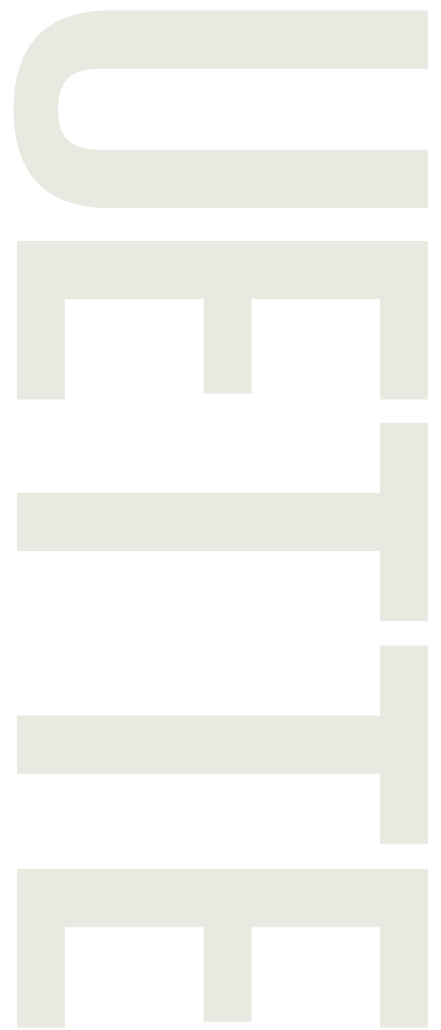
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