THE POWER OF PEAR

HOW A FRUIT-SHAPED BRAIN TUMOR HALTED JEANNIE GAFFIGAN’S FAST AND FUNNY LIFE — AND TAUGHT HER HOW TO REALLY LIVE.
We are committed to seeing God in all things, particularly in those with whom we disagree.

We must learn to listen to our neighbors, with whom we share a common home.”

MARQUETTE COLLEGE DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS, PRAYER SERVICE FOR NATIONAL UNITY
UPSTAGING COVID
Restricted by pandemic protocols, the Marquette Theatre players found other forms of expression. Here, Emma Knott and Will Knox perform at a distance in Dead Man’s Cell Phone, where masks “reinforced the anonymous nature of the characters,” says Stephen Hudson-Mairet, chair and associate professor of digital media and performing arts.

ART SPEAKS VOLUMES
Students, faculty and staff members (far right) help paint Our Roots Say That We’re Sisters, the new mural (right) on Holthusen Hall celebrating Marquette’s Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities. Check out a related podcast featuring diverse Marquette women at our-roots-say.captivate.fm.

REDIRECTED MISSION
Founded at Marquette in 2003, Global Brigades is the world’s largest student-led health organization. With the group’s international humanitarian trips suspended because of the pandemic, seniors Carmen Prater-Bellver (left) and Abigail Kuborn joined fellow students in preparing personal hygiene kits for two local service agencies.

HIGH HOOP HOPES
In newly hired Shaka Smart, a Madison native, Marquette men’s basketball has a head coach with a national profile and NCAA Final Four experience. He’s also the first person of color to lead the program. Read more about Coach Smart at gomarquette.com.
IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES, WE ARE CALLED TO LIFT OTHERS.
TO GIVE OF OURSELVES.

Time to Rise marks our boldest philanthropic campaign to date, and the Marquette family is stepping up. For our students, faculty and beyond. Join us at timetorise.marquette.edu.

We are Marquette. And it’s time to rise.

TIME TO RISE
THE MARQUETTE PROMISE TO BE THE DIFFERENCE

In a time of continuous disruption and change, I find myself looking for what’s constant. It often feels like nothing has remained stable during the pandemic. So much is new and unfamiliar. Campus is quieter, screen time is longer, and the simple joys of seeing droves of students while walking across campus or at basketball games seem like distant memories. I’ve often stated that there are two things about Marquette that cannot change: our commitments to achieving academic excellence and to upholding our Catholic, Jesuit identity. In providing a high-touch, transformational education to our students and fulfilling our mission, we must never waver. These are the cornerstones of our university; they are the very foundation upon which our university was built.

Since our lives were turned upside down last spring, I have been struck by the power of a third constant: our unwavering commitment to each other. When those on our campus have needed it the most, our Marquette community has consistently risen up.

- We listened to each other and answered the call — every single time.
- We made masks for each other.
- We trained each other in new online platforms.
- We marched for each other.
- We stepped forward to provide resources when our students were in financial crises.

I am particularly proud of this last item. Over the past year, our community has made a record number of donations to the Bridge to the Future Fund. Founded in 2008, the fund provides emergency scholarships to students who otherwise would not have the financial resources to complete their degrees at Marquette. Since the pandemic began, we have seen a tenfold increase in the number of students needing emergency funds. Through the inspiring generosity of our donors, we have already helped nearly 200 students this academic year. We know these funds truly make a difference, as 91 percent of Bridge to the Future Fund recipients graduate from Marquette.

Bridge to the Future is just another example of how Marquette shines through the darkness. So, when I look for stability, I know where to find it. It starts with our commitment to our students’ success. The way we uplift each other during difficult times is the reason that Marquette will continue to thrive through unforeseen change.

Dr. Michael R. Lovell
President
A new university web project serves the growing number of Marquette families who speak Spanish at home.

BY AGU IBÁÑEZ-BALDOR, SENIOR MAJORING IN BUSINESS

According to a recent survey, 42 percent of students at Marquette identifying as Hispanic or Latinx come from homes where their families speak primarily Spanish. Everything from the menu for dinner to decisions about major purchases is discussed in free-flowing Spanish. That makes the vaccine that graduate student Hannah Bettack administers to a fellow student nurse a welcome form of protection.

Enter Marquette en Español. Live since November, it’s an extensive set of university web resources entirely in Spanish. A cross-university team including Jacqueline Black, Marquette’s associate director for Hispanic initiatives; Maira Rodriguez, Grad ’16, senior admissions counselor; and several others initiated the project and helped get it launched. Maria Valerio Capella, visiting instructor of Spanish, edited the webpages over the summer.

The idea of having to do less translating of university policies, rules and culture resonates with senior Evelia Guerrero, president of Marquette University Student Government. From a Spanish-speaking household herself, she says it means a lot that she and her mother can now work together on financial aid forms. “It creates this bridge for families where they not only feel more a part of their children’s Marquette experience, but they also feel like they could navigate it by themselves,” she says.

Hispanic students now account for 15 percent of Marquette’s undergraduate student population — and that number is heading higher as Marquette pursues a goal of becoming a federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution. So, Marquette’s Spanish-language communication resources keep growing too. A Spanish-language group for Marquette parents has been active on Facebook for a couple of years. And now there are new university Instagram and Twitter accounts as well, both named @SomosMarquette. Why that? It translates as “We Are Marquette,” of course.

SACRED SPACES

600 years young

As new buildings rise around campus, Marquette’s oldest structure will get plenty of care and attention too. Such were the recommendations of a historic structure report on the beloved St. Joan of Arc Chapel, led by Vice President for Planning and Facilities Management Lora Strigens and her team, that proposed ways to improve accessibility for visitors and preserve the 600-year-old chapel’s distinctive medieval architecture for future generations. And helping to put that plan into action, a $1 million donation from the Slaggie Family Foundation will seed an endowment dedicated to restoring what President Michael R. Lovell calls, “a historical treasure and the spiritual centerpiece of our campus.”
Two $5 million grant awards from the Department of Energy are set to energize the Opus College of Engineering’s EMPOWER Lab, run by Dr. Ayman EL-Refaie, Thomas H. and Suzanne McFitter Endowed Chair in Secure/Sustainable Energy. The first, in partnership with Nenon Magnetics, Virginia Tech and the National Renewable Energy Lab, will focus on designing electric vehicle batteries from magnetic materials that are easier to source than those currently used, rare-earth materials mainly from China. The second, in partnership with Raytheon, Florida State University and the same federal lab, will advance a federal lab, will advance a vehicle motor system for reduced-weight, high-power and efficiency.

In the future, EMPOWER Lab will also focus on designing electric vehicle motor systems that are lightweight and efficient. The lab will also work on developing new materials for batteries that are easier to source and more sustainable. This will enable the production of electric vehicles that are more affordable and environmentally friendly.

The lab will also work on developing new technologies for the production of electric vehicles. These technologies include new materials for the production of electric vehicle parts, new designs for electric vehicle engines, and new algorithms for the control of electric vehicle systems. These technologies are expected to lead to the production of electric vehicles that are more efficient, more powerful, and more affordable.

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Research and Innovation: Covid Conversations

When the pandemic hit, faculty members reached out and found a wealth of expertise within their ranks — enough to fill an engaging Marquette podcast.

By Tracy Staedter

I. Leslie Knox, associate professor and chair of history, had scheduled two trips for summer 2020, first to Italy to conduct research for a new book and then to London to attend a conference on the Crusades. But COVID-19 ground her. Stuck at home, Knox wondered — along with many Marquette colleagues — how she'd advance her studies. "I wasn't going to be talking about my research with fellow medievalists, who else might be interested?" she wondered. The answer was right in front of her. As Marquette's faculty brainstormed research responses to the pandemic — as part of the university's COVID-19 Research Initiative — Knox, who has long studied the Black Death and other medieval plagues, found herself discussing the new virus's historical antecedents with her campus peers. Soon, she and a handful of colleagues were asking how they could foster more of these conversations, engaging experts from the humanities, social sciences and hard sciences. They teamed up to create the podcast series COVID Conversations.

Since debuting in July 2020, COVID Conversations has posted more than 30 episodes and logged nearly 4,000 listens from 24 countries. The series not only reflects Marquette's commitment to cross-disciplinary research, but also underscores its culture of innovation that encourages any member of the community to innovate, says Dr. Jeanne Hossenlopp, vice president for research and innovation. These attributes are essential to the university's future as it navigates the financial turbulence created both by the pandemic and by demographic shifts that will put pressure on enrollment in coming years. "We know that our future requires us to work across boundaries. This is our strategic plan coming to life," says Hossenlopp.

A podcast was a natural complement to other ideas emerging from the research initiative, says Dr. Sameena Mulla, associate professor of anthropology. That initiative produced COVID-19 Student Commentaries, a forum for disseminating the latest research around the disease. And faculty and students participated in several "lightning talks," presenting their COVID-related research in five minutes or less.

Knox, Mulla and several others met for the first time near the end of May 2020 to brainstorm topics and schedule guests. Mulla says their requests for participation generated an overwhelmingly positive response, despite busy schedules and increased workloads as faculty pivoted to remote learning. "We really thought we could do maybe one or two episodes. We ended up with 20," she says of season one. A second kickoff off this spring. The most popular episodes were "Mask Up Marquette," which shared findings from student field observations on who was and was not wearing masks in Wisconsin, and "Race, Immigration and COVID-19," a discussion led by Mulla on why people blame immigrant communities for the outbreak. In all, more than 50 experts have contributed to the series, which can be found at marquette.edu/covidconversations.

Covid Conversations shows Marquette's faculty meeting the pandemic head-on, says Dr. Sandra Hunter, chair of the COVID-19 Research Initiative and director of the Athletic and Human Performance Research Center. By rallying around a pressing issue, they created a useful template for achieving influence with limited resources. "In times of hardship, that's when innovation occurs," she says. Dr. Phil Rocco, assistant professor of political science, is leading a group hoping to formalize that innovation. He says the podcast's conversations resonated with something Pope Francis wrote in his encyclical Fratelli Tutti: "Researchers who are expert in their own field, yet also familiar with the findings of other sciences and disciplines, are in a position to... become open to a more comprehensive and integral knowledge of reality."

Seeing an opportunity, Rocco and 20 of his colleagues drafted a proposal that advocates for a research initiative in science, technology, medicine and society that fosters cross-disciplinary teams responding to scientific questions through a Jesuit lens. As a university workgroup considering the idea in recommendations it will make for Marquette's future, informal multidisciplinary research teams will continue to meet, talk, team-teach and innovate.

MU/360°

Engineering: Empowering e-Transportation

A new scholarly work explores a groundbreaking interfaith dialogue.

By Tracy Staedter

Forty years ago, Sisters Lucille Walsh, Dent ’64, and Jessee Reiss, Arts ’42, Grad ’52, of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, joined with Dr. Abbas Hamdani, a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, to launch one of the first Islamic-Christian dialogues in the U.S. Their community-engaged conversations created an atmosphere of understanding and trust, and a “culture of respect,” writes Caroline Redick, doctoral candidate in religious studies and contributor to Interfaith Engagement in Milwaukee, A Brief History of Christian-Muslim Dialogue, edited by Dr. Irfan Omar, associate professor of theology, and graduate researcher Kathryn C. Daley, Nurs ’17.

Essays and scholarly analysis show how these dialogues humanized the “other” and strengthened communities. Catholics and Muslims advocated for each other in the face of misinformation and prejudice, particularly after the 9/11 attacks and the Catholic Church’s sexual abuse scandals. Dozens of interfaith collaborations unfolded to address social justice, health equity and more. This pursuit of common ground resonates amid today’s divisions. “This book shows differences of all kinds offer opportunities for learning and growth. They invite dialogue, which requires an open mind, but is immensely rewarding in the long run,” says Omar.

Academics: Productive Break

An effort to help students adjust to the pandemic paid off over winter break when J-session enrollment more than doubled. The annual winter term, which this year was stretched to six weeks instead of four, and the number of course sections increased to 58 from 30. Extra weeks meant students could take two courses instead of one, enabling them to lighten their load during the regular semesters or catch up if their coursework had been interrupted. The result: 880 enrolled in 2020 compared with 434 in 2019 — a 102 percent increase. "We knew we needed to provide these additional opportunities to help students," says Dr. John Su, vice provost for academic affairs.
"It is one way to stand firm in our part in restoring pathways," Xhelili Ciaccio. "We aim to do it."

Dr. Darren Wheelock from Teaching and Outreach, is of History and director of the college pipeline. "Dr. Robert becomes a citywide prison-to-

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ARTS & SCIENCES

MU/360°

post-prison pipeline

LEADERSHIP

charting the course ahead

In a first-ever video annual address, President Lovell emphasized promising opportunities for Marquette as it prepares to move past the pandemic.

I

or the first time during his tenure at Marquette, President Michael R. Lovell gave his annual address by video in February. The speech, recorded in the 707 Hub, was a reminder of the lingering presence of COVID-19, which undermined student enrollment this academic year and opened a gap in the university’s budget, the closing of which was a priority in recent months. Yet Lovell’s message was encouraging, as he featured news emerging from people and initiatives at Marquette that will help the university seize opportunities and prepare for the future. "As we transition from what was a historically challenging year for higher education and a difficult chapter in Marquette’s history, our campus is alive with the promise of academic excellence, collaboration and student success," he told viewers.

Here are a few takeaways from the address:

"We believe"

Love All acknowledged the shortage of health care workers around the country, the importance of which has become obvious during the pandemic. About 1 million new registered nurses are needed to replace those graduates in six years, Lovell said. A disproportionate number who don’t cross the finish line are first-generation students and recipients of federal Pell grants, awarded to undergraduates who display exceptional financial need. "This is a challenge we can absolutely overcome," he said.

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That end, the university has launched a Student Success Initiative to increase four-year graduation rates and decrease student debt. One feature will be the Student Success Lab integrating curricular, cocurricular and academic support services. "We will bring together campus departments in innovative ways that allow us to care for students facing challenges and intervene before they are in crisis," Lovell said. And those goals pair nicely with policies that arose last summer involving analysis of 15 years of data around student experiences and collaborations with the Black Student Council to improve recruitment, retention and graduation of Black students. Marquette has since added 40 Urban Scholarships emphasizing recruitment of Black students from Milwaukee and launched a fundraising campaign for a new student center and more scholarship aid, including to cover housing. By fall 2021, Marquette will also open the Umoja Black Living Community in Carpenter Tower. Umoja means “unity” in Swahili and captures the inclusive and welcoming intent of the community.

Online expansion

As the profile of virtual learning at Marquette has grown during the pandemic, notable online offerings have climbed the excellence ladder, according to external reviews. For instance, the Master’s in Computing program ranked sixth in U.S. News & World Report’s 2021 Best Online Computer Information Technology Master’s Programs. Lovell said existing and new virtual master’s programs will be marketed to appeal to nontraditional students (using a model proven with nursing program) to add “500 to 500 graduate students over the next few years.” Such measures could help offset shifts in demographics that are predicted to cut into undergraduate higher education enrollments.

Lovell also enthusiastically shared the outcome of Marquette’s recent Mission Priority Examinations, the self-study and peer-review process all Jesuit universities undergo. In his response to Marquette’s exam, Rev. Arturo Sosa, S.J., superior general of the Society of Jesus, affirmed Marquette’s Catholic and Jesuit character as “firmly rooted,” and deemed the university “one of the strongest institutions” in the U.S. Jesuit network. Said Lovell, “This is one of the strongest endorsements of Marquette’s mission, a differentiating factor for us that will guide us through years to come.”

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BEYOND BOUNDARIES

DUBLIN HO! When sophomore Brendan Sanchez applied to study at University College Dublin, he hoped COVID-19 would be in the rearview mirror by fall 2020. It wasn’t. But Ireland had managed outbreaks well, so Sanchez went. With classes virtual, he had to leave his comfort zone and take responsibility for his Dublin experience.

His advice to peers studying abroad, pandemic or not: “Don’t hesitate to shoot that someone a message asking if they’d like to take a walk or run to the café to grab coffee. If you’re feeling lonely, trust me, others are, too.”

ENGINEERING

the little tree that could

During the pandemic, a professor’s lemon tree — and his commitment to students — continued to blossom.

BY JENNIFER WALTER, COMM ’19

When Dr. John Borg was finally able to return to his office after the pandemic forced campus to close in March 2020, he expected to see the floor littered with dead flowers. Six weeks earlier, he had left behind a lemon tree just starting to bloom.

But the sad sight of a missed harvest was not what greeted Borg. Instead, the chair and professor of mechanical engineering found dozens of green, immature lemons. Though subsequent waterings came only biweekly until campus reopened in August, the hardy plant learned to adapt.

Borg, the 2017 recipient of Marquette’s prestigious Haggerty Award for Research Excellence, had always combined the attributes of parent and scientist in tending his tree, pollinating each round of blossoms delicately with a Q-tip. Equally important was giving away ripe lemons from each crop to colleagues and students. Thanks to the resilient tree, he did so again this year, telling recipients: “These are the COVID lemons. These are the ones that survived that whole time.”

But the tree wasn’t the only one adapting. Midway through that spring semester, Borg, like all professors on campus, had to find new digital ways to teach students remotely. Enlisting his young daughter as an on-screen assistant, he learned to make lively videos of himself answering questions — like how fast would a dinosaur run? — to explain complex physics topics.

And the professor who lavished attention on a fruit tree showed similar care for students learning at a distance. When he noticed one lagging behind, he reached out with a phone call. The students (or their families) were often pleasantly surprised to find a professor on the line, offering help.

In tackling new challenges, Borg was fortunate to find inspiration nearby. “It became my thing, saying, ‘We’re going to get through this together, me and the tree,’” says LaManna.

ARTS AND SCIENCES

megafires and pollinators

Across the country, populations of pollinating insects are in decline. But field research conducted in Montana and published by Dr. Joseph LaManna, assistant professor of biological sciences, and his colleagues shows that burned landscapes, counterintuitively enough, have up to 10 times greater biodiversity of plants and pollinators than unburned areas. But as fires intensify, those interspecies relationships become more important and less favorable. On land charred by mixed-severity fires, surviving plants attract and drive pollinator populations. On severely scorched land, pollinators influence plant regrowth. Where megafires are becoming more common and pollinator communities are dwindling, “We could see a severe impact on the ability of ecosystems to recover,” says LaManna.
Marquette’s newest leader, Paul Jones, joins as general counsel and vice president of the new Office of University Relations, a merging of the offices of Economic Engagement; Marketing and Communication; and Public Affairs. A longtime university collaborator, Jones — Harley-Davidson’s former chief lawyer — helped establish Near West Side Partners, the economic and community development nonprofit anchored by Marquette, Harley and other area institutions. In 2020, he served as the 707 Hub’s first intrapreneur-in-residence, mentoring student-led startups and venture capital programs. Jones says he will help Marquette “raise the bar on our creativity, strategic thinking and relationships in the city, region and nation.”

his facility is going to be a convening place for business,” says Tim Hanley, Bus Ad ’78, acting Keyses Dean of Business Administration, about his college’s future home, which had its groundbreaking in March. Hanley acknowledges channeling late Dean Joe Daniels, who championed the project as a “convener” of people from across campus and the community. Now, just over a year after Daniels tragically lost his life when struck by a car near campus, that vision is under construction at 16th Street and Wisconsin Avenue, the former site of McCormick Hall. Fully funded by $60 million in donations from benefactors, the new building will anchor a key academic area of campus, with an impact reaching much farther. “The crossroads of campus,” Tim McMahon, vice president for University Advancement, calls it. For starters, it will house the College of Business Administration, the university’s second largest in combined undergraduate and graduate enrollment and known for nationally ranked programs in supply chain, finance, real estate and more. The building will also welcome the popular Excellence in Leadership (E-Lead) program, founded by the Opus College of Engineering and now accepting applications from all undergraduates.

An airy ground-floor space will double as a classroom and appealing event space for campus organizations, business partners and outside community organizations. “Our buildings need to be designed with the future in mind and an ability to flex and serve multiple functions over time,” says Lora Strigens, vice president for planning and facilities management. And with Marquette Business on the move, the project even supports the future of the growing College of Nursing, as plans call for a vacated Straz Hall to be renovated as its future home. “Both projects will advance our campus master plan in exciting ways,” Strigens says.

Inspired by the reading she’s done with her children, Dr. Lanie Nobile, visiting assistant professor of chemistry, invited her Honors students to create illustrated stories that help children appreciate chemistry. Sixty students have signed on since fall 2019 — with colorful results. Will You Bond with Me? by senior Cheryl Hohl tells the story of Sodium, a lonely alkali metal, making friends. Basic Things Little Chemists Need to Know by freshman Loren Bensyl (shown here) delves into the fundamental components of the universe and encourages curiosity. “I was super impressed with how the students were able to break down such complex topics,” says Nobile, who is partnering with Marquette’s Norman H. Ott Writing Center to help students reach their publishable potential.

Construction starts on a new donor-funded home for Marquette Business that’s poised for broad impact.

BY MARY SCHMITT BOYER, JOUR ’77

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holistic health
A new interdisciplinary minor in public health equity is now available from the College of Health Sciences. Aimed at students from different disciplines who are interested in diverse spectrums of health, the minor will provide the experiential training needed to help people equitably access healthy living opportunities. Faculty team member Dr. Nilanjan Lodh, assistant professor of clinical laboratory science, says the minor is “much bigger than just health science,” because it will shed light on the social, cultural and economic aspects of health. Experiential training gained locally can arm students with the perspective they need to improve health disparities globally.

A REMINDER TO NOTICE
what I nearly missed
Anti-racism from the inside out.
BY GARRETT GUNDLACH, S.J.

The story starts familiarly — I was logging into a Zoom meeting — and it starts well. Despite studying in Paris, seven time zones from the Midwestern U.S., I was able to join brother Jesuits and friends on both sides of the Atlantic for their Saturday morning anti-racism discussion group. It was summer, and worldwide demonstrations against the horrid killing of George Floyd were at their peak. I logged into the familiar chatter and dings of Zoom meetings, grateful to see the faces in that Brady Bunch grid. And some were pleased to see me — or even surprised: Wow, you made it!

One friend expressed his surprise directly, in French: “I’m surprised you’re here. You were not at the rally in Paris?!” I was relieved no one else understood him. Embarrassed and ashamed — “What rally?” I asked myself — I cobbled together a response in French before he convened the meeting.

It took me quite some time to unpack this. My friend’s words. My shame. Putting this swirl before God some days in prayer, I’m grateful that some learnings have emerged. I know now that his words were a playful and even complimentary call to action — a sign he assumed I would have been there. Nonetheless, in the moment, I interpreted it as a judgment. I realize that my misinterpretation intensified my already-strong fears of not doing enough for anti-racism work, feelings only strengthened by the fact that he is Black and I am white. I was hearing it straight from one of my teachers in this struggle.

Start by discovering what anti-racism initiatives are going on where I am: That’s my first step now that I’ve moved again, to Beirut. But as I return to this external effort, I now know it must also be accompanied by an internal gentleness — so I don’t make enemies of allies or abandon graced possibilities for this hard but beautiful growth.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
The formation of Jesuit Scholastic Garrett Gundlach, S.J., Arts ’09, has taken him from Paris to Lebanon for studies in Arabic and Islam-Christian dialogue; he will return briefly to the U.S. this summer for ordination to the priesthood.

CURATED AUTHENTICITY ROCKS
Inspired by the “Guerilla Bunny,” an anonymous artist who hides painted eggs around a Massachusetts town, Dr. Melissa Shew, visiting assistant professor of philosophy, asked her students to paint and hide rocks around campus. For students, there’s magic in having unexpected encounters with art — an “authentic experience” nearly as joyful as creating art itself, says Shew.
THE POWER OF PEAR

A PEAR-SHAPED BRAIN TUMOR Halted Jeannie Gaffigan’s Life, Brought Her Closer to God, and Showed Her How to Really Live.

BY STEPHEN FILMANOWICZ

To know Jeannie Gaffigan, it seems, is to describe her as a superhero. She’s “an unstoppable woman,” you’ll read in books and magazines — “a force to be reckoned with,” “a multitasking whirling dervish.”

She started creating reactions like this as far back as her days as a Marquette theatre major. Gaffigan, Comm ’92, Hon Deg ’18, was Jeannie Noth back then, gobbling up any and all challenges, from stage-managing student productions to building stage sets and getting cast in acting roles in hip café productions by a hotshot local director. If the wardrobe room started resembling something out of a hoarding show and needed reorganizing, she’d knock that out too.

Fast-forward five years or more and cue these words: “Oh my God.”

That’s Jim Gaffigan, Hon Deg ’18 — Jeannie’s partner in marriage, parenting and comedy — reacting countless times under his breath “in sincere bewilderment” at Jeannie and what she can accomplish.

The first time came a day after their first lunch together. Just a few years into a New York theatre career, Jeannie had already established a nonprofit after-school program, Shakespeare on the Playground. As the couple took shaky steps toward a romance, Jim accepted an invitation to visit a church gymnasium where middle schoolers were practicing to perform Romeo and Juliet set to hip-hop music.

What he saw stunned him — “a sea of kids,” many from nearby public housing blocks, and just a couple of theatre-world volunteers helping Jeannie. “I watched as this human cyclone choreographed and inspired the whole operation,” he writes. “Most impressively, the kids were engaged,

THE UNLIKELY FRUITS OF A LONG, AGONIZING RECOVERY? ABUNDANT GRACE AND GRATITUDE.
When Jeannie got to Marquette herself, theology courses and Masses with her family fed her faith, but not in an overly serious way. God was a buddy figure back then. “If I was in a rush to get somewhere, I’d say, ‘Hail Mary, full of grace, help me find a parking space,’” she relates with a wink.

But in this enormous new city after college, Jeannie found the nearby church comforting. “It was like God was saying, ‘Hello,’” she recalls. “I mean, I was going to see this church all the time. So, when I went in there, it was like home. I felt like, OK, this is part of my life now.”

Jim Gaffigan was another fixture of her street — the big, pale blond guy who lived across the street from the church. After a long run-up full of half acknowledgments on the sidewalk, they bumped into each other in the narrow aisles of a Korean run market and joked about whether they knew each other. Jim ended the conversation with a wisecrack: “Hah, we’ll probably get married.”

As they explored an interest in each other, they discovered some uncanny overlap. Both were from cities on Lake Michigan, his on north Indiana. She was the eldest of nine, he the youngest of six. And he, too, had graduated from a Jesuit university, Georgetown.

“There were things about us culturally that were very familiar. We just clicked,” Jeannie says with a hard emphasis on that last word. Other boyfriends had been bewildered by her manic devotion to the absurd and, of course, a deep affection for eating. “There was nothing like that with Jim,” she says. “He was just as passionate.”

Work actually helped forge their bond. Soon after the pair met, Jim waltzed into a dream scenario — a lead role in a network sitcom based on some Midwesterner-in-New York material he’d performed on the Late Show with David Letterman. As production neared, he wondered what on earth a comedian with little acting training would do. “I thought, ‘Wow, this is something that can bring me such joy, working with this guy,’” says Jeannie Gaffigan’s comedic voice: at times dark and sarcastic but with a playful, probing sense of the absurd and, of course, a deep affection for eating. And as their creative partnership took shape, she helped enlarge his perspective. When marriage and kids followed, their comedic world grew to absorb them. And their faith too. The Jim she first met was a cultural Catholic. As he confessed to her, he “rooted for Notre Dame.” But during their courtship, she began dragging him along to Mass, assuring him he didn’t have to dress up. “I thought, ‘Wow, this is something that can bring me such joy, working with this guy,’” she says.

The show ran only one season on CBS, but Jeannie and Jim were just getting started. To produce a CD for Jim to sell at shows, Jeannie sat with her microphone in enough comedy clubs to start offering feedback — which lead in for a joke worked better, or which progression of bits achieved better flow. “Working together — that’s when things got serious,” says Jeannie.

Jim even turned something funny she said into a joke he used on a late-night TV show. The next day, he told her he’d “killed” with it. “He sounded surprised, but I was so happy,” she remembers.

When Jeannie got to Marquette herself, theology courses and Masses with her family fed her faith, but not in an overly serious way. God was a buddy figure back then. “If I was in a rush to get somewhere, I’d say, ‘Hail Mary, full of grace, help me find a parking space,’” she relates with a wink.

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WANT THE GAFFIGANS GIVE THEIR 2018 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS @ BIT.LY/GAFFIGANADDRESS.

The Gaffigans were all on hand for Marquette’s 2018 Commencement ceremony, where Jeannie and Jim delivered the address and received honorary doctoral degrees.

Jeannie and Jim wouldn’t flare up upon entry like “foil-wrapped bacon in a microwave.” With time, he needed less pulling. The couple got married in that church and made it part of their life together. As their brood grew, the big Catholic Gaffigan family stood out as a supersized anomaly in the New York comedy world. A religion writer for The Washington Post even wrote a piece that left Jim feeling “outed as the Catholic comic,” says Jeannie. But there was no turning back. Something in him rebels against the usual expectations imposed on comedians, Jim said last year on the podcast Armchair Expert with Dax Shepard. “I almost wonder if it’s my way of saying, ‘You know what the most rebellious thing I can do is?’”

To say, “I believe in God.”

When Jeannie and Jim took their writing partnership to new heights in 2015 with the creation of another TV series, The Jim Gaffigan Show on cable’s TV Land, it put a lightly fictionalized version of their family life center stage. There were Jim and Jeannie (played by actress Ashley Williams), five kids and a few regulars — Jeannie’s gay best friend, Daniel, and Jim’s comedy buddy, Dave, a Jewish atheist lothario. And, yes, there was a nearby Catholic church with an African priest, Father Nicholas, popping into his share of scenes and often trying to wrangle Jim in for a priest, Father Nicholas, popping into his share of scenes and often trying to wrangle Jim in for a "confession as he shuffled past the churchyard."

There was just one problem. Working as executive producer and showrunner immersed her in the idea of family life — even a simulacrum of her own family — but left her “living and breathing” television production. “At a certain point, you’re just not home,” she explains. “I came to wonder, ‘Am I just making this up? I’m going to stop being the Jeannie of the show pretty soon.’"

But it wasn’t to be. Though the show was popular enough to keep rolling, Jeannie and Jim pulled the plug on it after two seasons in order to be there to see their kids grow up. It was a rare case of Jeannie deliberately slowing down her life, at least a little. (She’d soon find time to direct another Grammy-nominated comedy special, Cinco.) The next time she’d slow down it would be a hard stop — and not by choice.

**A PAINFUL MOUNTAIN CLIMB**

In the days that follow, her functioning consciousness becomes an enemy of sorts, heightening her awareness of the tubes down her throat and nose, the strict orders forbidding food or water by mouth, the energy drained from her body when she desperately needs to get home to her kids and their by-then multiplying needs. “I was confronted with the dark part of myself,” she writes. “The part that wants to control everything. The Furious part.”

Ahead of her lies an agonizing recovery, a soul-shaking spiritual trial. Making it forward requires summoning every internal and external healing resource she can muster. As the subtitle of her book suggests, faith, family and funny people — and the grace they eventually lead her to — become Jeannie’s real superpowers.

By this point in her life, her faith is mature. Revealing in Pears’ description of the frantic run-up to surgery are the religious folk Jeannie has on spiritual speed dial — Sister Mary, Deacon Paul, Father Jonathan. More than one had shepherded Jeannie (and Jim) through faith-deepening crises, including miscarriages and a newborn death that had brought Jeannie emotional pain like she’d never felt before.

**A POIGNANT PASSAGE**

It’s a sweet moment but, before long, a cruel one. Although her thinking brain would be fine, her tumor had been entwined with the cranial nerves connecting her brain and bodily functions. Hours into her recovery, it would become clear that either the tumor or its delicate extraction had injured the nerves controlling her vocal cords and her throat’s ability to keep air and saliva in their assigned places. After peacefully nodding off, Jeannie awakes in the startling setting of the ICU with a worsening case of pneumonia, caught when she breathed in saliva while asleep.

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**THRU TO THE END**

Thrust into an MRI tube with a breathing tube down her throat, Jeannie fears she’s suffocating. She grasps for prayer in anguish. And by the time she makes it through the entire rosary, picturing each bead in her mind’s eye, she’s at a place of peace. “I never really understood meditation until I was near suffocation in an MRI coffin,” she writes. “I preferred to be in the MRI, alone with my peaceful meditation, than out of the MRI in the chaotic ICU.”

The easing of her pneumonia only leaves more time for Jeannie’s hunger — for food, water, speech and children — to gnaw at her. She grows intensely jealous of Jim every time he leaves the ICU, imagining him heading straight out for a giant cheeseburger. She seethes with resentment toward anyone who can eat. Returning to meditation, she again finds peace. “Without the rosary, I was a hideous monster,” she admits.

**CREDITS**

**I WAS CONFRONTED WITH THE DARK PART OF MYSELF. THE PART THAT WANTS TO CONTROL EVERYTHING. THE FURIOUS PART.”**
After dreaming of tasting an ice cream cone during the months when no food or water could pass her lips, Jeannie and her five children finally visited New York’s Washington Square Park together (above) and “experienced the ecstasy of a blister-free cone on a hot summer day.”

Even at her darkest, though, Jeannie avoids having a “God, how could you do this to me?” conversation. “Once I realized God was in this, that’s when things got better. Without Him, I would have been in hell.”

Amid this struggle, she is amazed that her parents and eight siblings drop their lives in Milwaukee, New York, Washington, D.C., and other places to rally in shifts at her bedside and provide Jim with support at home. Touchingly, individual brothers or sisters carve out unique and needed care specialties—lavender-scented foot rubs, podcasts or book readings to feed her mind, or gatekeeping when Jeannie needs a break.

That’s the family of the healing-power trinity evolved (along with faith and funny people) in the subtitle of When Life Gives You Pears.

When Jeannie returns home—still with plenty of recovery—like St. Ignatius’ before her—leads to a conversion. She realizes her insistence on being her family’s caregiver and “alpha controller” was feeding her ego as much as it was benefiting the children and Jim. She sees that loosening her grip will allow them to thrive. For this and other revelations, she’s grateful—and most grateful, improbably enough, for the spur that put her on this course in the first place.

“I’m grateful for my tumor, grateful that I could almost die to be more appreciative of life.”

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“I’m grateful for my tumor, grateful that I could almost die to be more appreciative of life.”
HOT HAND

A STUDENT’S SAVVY SANITIZER IS A 707 HUB-BORN HIT.

BY LAUREN SIEBEN

Cierra Griffin’s subscription box for girls interested in STEM. Cierra Griffin’s subscription box for girls interested in STEM.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Cierra Griffin’s subscription box for girls interested in STEM.

Before the Krisband launch, Carter took advantage of the hub’s boot camp, a crash course in topics such as creating a business model canvas, financial modeling and prototyping.

When Carter became an intern at the hub, staff members nudged her to explore her entrepreneurial interests. Her ambition and creativity were obvious, she just needed to start working through her ideas.

Carter set up a meeting with Tom Avery, the 707 Hub’s entrepreneur-in-residence. “As a serial entrepreneur, he brings a lot of experience and passion to helping students think through their business and determine next steps to move from idea to action,” says Otero. Avery and the 707 Hub team have continued to be a resource for Carter as she navigates the ups and downs of business ownership.

“They were sending me emails about patent attorneys and helping me out so I can make sure everything’s good for my business legally,” she says. The 707 Hub’s staff also helped her create a marketing plan and promote her business in on-campus publications. Carter’s success on TikTok came as a bonus.

As Carter stays busy selling the Krisband, she’s not alone. Seeing a surge of students interested in starting new ventures, Otero calls the pandemic “a period of creation in a period of isolation.” An example is senior engineering major Cierra Griffin’s subscription box for girls interested in STEM.

Marquette’s 707 Hub stands out among other collegiate entrepreneurship programs in part because of its Jesuit values. “We’re encouraging students not just to think about building an app or creating a new business, but to think about how this new business is inclusive and solving a real problem,” Otero says. “That goes above and beyond the potential economic impact. It’s rooted in something.”

The problem-solving approach also speaks to Carter, who plans to expand her business beyond the Krisband and sell other wellness products to improve life for her customers. “My favorite part of this entire experience is hearing people’s feedback about how much they really enjoy the product and how it’s helped them,” she says.

“I was getting orders from all across the country. It was crazy.”

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Cierra Griffin’s subscription box for girls interested in STEM.

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Steve Nooyen slipped through a tangle of balsam firs, stepped onto a two-track dirt road in northern Wisconsin, and hurried to the hunter waiting nearby in the darkness. Lowering his headlamp’s beam to avoid blinding him, Nooyen clapped a hand on Mike Barnes’ shoulder and announced, “Congratulations! You got yourself a really nice deer.”

Nooyen, Bus Ad ’88, felt Barnes quiver and start sobbing. After harnessing his emotions, Barnes told Nooyen, “You have no idea what this means to me.” Barnes, a health care engineer from North Carolina, felt moved by the forest, its autumn colors, his first success with a crossbow and the anticipation of fresh venison. He hadn’t hunted in five years. In fact, he seldom hunted as an adult, even though he grew up hunting and fishing.

Like most U.S. hunters, Barnes finds hunting property increasingly rare as suburbs sprawl deeper into rural America and absentee landowners lease access rights to high bidders. But Barnes faces more formidable barriers too. He has used a wheelchair since a car crash at age 17 severed his spine in three places. He struggles crossing raised thresholds between rooms, let alone the bogs, creek bottoms and log-strewn hillsides of deer woods.

And make no mistake: Serious hunters like Barnes don’t just switch “hobbies” if they suddenly can’t hunt. Research in the 1970s by University of Wisconsin–Madison sociologists found that more than 60 percent of deer hunters would miss it as much or more than all other interests.

By Patrick Durkin

REFLECTIONS ON HIS LIFE’S “SECOND HALF” PURPOSE LED STEVE NOOYEN TO FOUND WHEELCHAIR WHITETAILS.
Like other hunters, Tom Narmore came with a friend or family member, all for free. Nooyen and Hansen met in 1998 through a volunteer group that took disabled people fishing. When they weren’t volunteering or carrying out duties as organization board members, Nooyen and Hansen often hunts or fished together. Those outings taught Nooyen that good intentions alone don’t ensure fun for hunters and anglers in wheelchairs.

“Climbing gravel parking lots and getting into boats can be challenging, even impossible,” Nooyen says. “Each person has specific needs requiring plans and patient service from others.”

These experiences stayed with Nooyen as he lived his life with Kristi and built a business. He opened Wisconsin’s first Home Instead senior care franchise at age 30 and later added six more. Imbuing the operations with a sense of mission — even listing God as CEO on the company website — he kept alive a plan to run the company for 20 years, reassest life at 50 and step aside from day-to-day operations.

With these milestones approaching, Nooyen engaged with the Halftime Institute in 2015 to craft his life’s “second-half” mission. Through prayer and reflection, he recognized faith as a driver in his life since his early days at Marquette, when he ran himself ragged struggling to keep up with his classes while working part-time jobs to help cover tuition. Feeling adrift, a country boy in the city, he found sanctuary in the Masses held in the chapels on campus. He now works 40 weeks per year tending food plots, maintaining a 6-mile trail network and handling other projects. He drives hunters and companions to their blinds in an all-terrain vehicle and customized trailer for the hunters’ wheelchairs.

The Nooyens’ unfenced property is bordered east, south and west by public forests, which keeps deer wild and wary. With about half of the guests arrowing a deer each weekend, Nooyen focuses more on remembering memories. Guests see plenty of birds and other wildlife, and enjoy good food, engaging conversation and wheelchair-friendy accommodations.

Nooyen sees everything from his guests’ perspective, says Barnes — table heights, restroom and blind designs, yardage markers for shooting and the companionship of their hunting partners.

Nooyen trusts God to choose which hunters become his guests. And after they arrive, he subtly takes their “spiritual temperature,” offers a prayer before each meal, and strives to serve them as Jesus would with humility, patience and kindness.

“Sometimes our meal prayer leads to conversations where we explore God and the Scriptures more deeply,” Nooyen says. “I try to follow the Scriptures’ verse to work diligently with all my heart.”

Barnes the night before — said, “Steve, you have no idea what this means to me.” His three days at Wheelchair Whitetails were the longest time he’d ever spent in nature and its enriching silence.

“… Your ministry is working, even if others don’t express it this way, and I am forever grateful.” Nooyen, meanwhile, says Barnes and Myers have no idea how much he appreciates them. “In that 18-hour span, two guys with totally different hunts had the same reaction,” he says. “When they drove away, I sat on the cabin’s steps and sobbed too. It felt like God was speaking, assuring me I was a good, faithful servant.”

“I TRY TO FOLLOW THE SCRIPTURES’ VERSE TO WORK DILIGENTLY WITH ALL MY HEART.”

Steve Nooyen

John Martinson

Overcame barriers to experience a cherished pastime.

Below, Mike Barnes and Josh Myers (seated, from left) had strongly emotional experiences in the woods.

Kristi and Steve Nooyen have merged their love of the outdoors, their faith and their desire to serve others into a venture that brings outdoor adventures to people who can’t otherwise access them.

Nooyen grew up hunting and fishing around New Franken, east of Green Bay. He’d been hunting for 13 years when he first tasted success at 26. “I didn’t have facial hair when I started, and I had my first gray hairs when I finally got one,” he relates. “Most people have no idea how hard it is to get a deer.” Always athletic, Nooyen easily crossed terrain that tripped others. Later, about the time he shot his first deer, he learned some in wheelchairs envied his freedom to tackle such obstacles.

That lesson came from Don Hansen, who has relied on a wheelchair since age 8 because of spina bifida. Nooyen and Hansen met in 1998 through a volunteer group that took disabled people fishing. When they weren’t volunteering or carrying out duties as organization board members, Nooyen and Hansen often hunted or fished together.

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Wheelchair Whitetails, the couple welcomes two or three hunters in wheelchairs to their 519 acres just south of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Their guests use crossbows to hunt white-tailed deer from one of 15 blinds overlooking forest trails or openings. By season’s end, the Nooyens feed, house and guide up to 30 hunters, each accompanied by a friend or family member, all for free. Nooyen considers it a ministry — an opportunity for hunters like Barnes to experience something transcendent in the woods and come together with others in prayer before or afterward, if they’re so moved.

D ecades later, not surprisingly, faith would be front and center — along with enjoyment of Wisconsin’s wilds and a calling to serve others — in the mission he crafted for life after 50: “To bring smiles, laughter and Christ through my words and actions in outdoor adventures to the elderly, young, and disabled … one person at a time.”

Soon afterward, Nooyen created Wheelchair Whitetails. He now works 40 weeks per year tending food plots, maintaining a 6-mile trail network and handling other projects. He drives hunters and companions to their blinds in an all-terrain vehicle and customized trailer for the hunters’ wheelchairs.

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MARQUETTE’s Alumni National Awards Honor Distinguished Alumni and Friends Who Embody Marquette’s Mission Through Their Character, Achievements and Impact.

With that transformative spirit shining as brightly as ever, 52 awardees will be honored this May. Celebrations of awardees from every college and professional school will include a special virtual ceremony Tuesday, May 25, at 6 p.m. CDT, honoring recipients of the All-University Awards, who are profiled here.

By Paula Wheeler, Tracy Staedter and Stephen Filmanowicz

Terry and Darren Jackson found each other when she served him Communion at a Gesu Mass, and he followed up by asking her to the Senior Ball. Together ever since, they married in 1988 when she was a nurse at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin and he was starting a career in retail that led to leadership positions at Nordstrom, Best Buy and Advance Auto Parts. Today, they strive to answer the Jesuit call to be men and women for others, supporting organizations including Marquette that “nurture, develop and create a sense of accountability for the greater good,” says Darren Jackson, past chair of the Marquette Board of Trustees. Strengthened by years of partnership, the Jacksons’ commitment to the College of Nursing culminated in their historic gift of $31 million, announced this winter, to fuel enrollment growth, health care advances and student diversity to reduce health disparities. The gift will fund an expected 80 scholarships per year for nursing students from underrepresented backgrounds. “The pandemic has revealed a desperate need for more qualified, caring nurses as well as a lack of diversity in the nursing profession,” says Terry Jackson, chair of the college’s campaign committee and co-chair with her husband of the President’s Advisory Council. “The College of Nursing is ready to meet those needs.”
Devoting themselves to advancing justice and tackling inequity, Jill Rauh and Ajmel Quereshi have long inspired others to do the same. Fittingly, they met through a Marquette student group focused on justice. Despite different faith backgrounds — she is a devout Catholic, he was raised Muslim — they bonded over their similarities and shared worldview. They married in 2008 and have supported each other in the meaningful work each feels called to do. Rauh loves her current role for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops “Helping Catholics live out their baptismal call to be people on mission.” Quereshi is senior counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and professor and director of Howard University’s Civil Rights Clinic. They embody Marquette’s mission with their commitment to realize a just world — one in which, he says, “There will be no need for civil rights lawyers.” And they share another favorite passion too: raising their beloved young son, Jamal.

or entrepreneur and philanthropist Craig Kasten, living the Marquette mission means finding a way to say, “Yes, I can help with that.” As CEO of health benefits technology innovator Skygen USA, he’s come a long way from his days riding the bus to and from campus and juggling studies with work as a hotel night clerk. With his first significant financial success, Kasten was ecstatic, seizing the opportunity with his wife, Wendy, to initiate decades of support of Marquette men’s basketball and other initiatives has benefited to date. Close to home, their support of Journey Tanzania, with 31,100 pairs of eyeglasses distributed to date. Close to home, their support of Journey

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rom his days as a student at Marquette Law School, the late Gene Posner, Law ’36, embraced the concept of pro bono publico (“for the public good”). The lawyer, entrepreneur, philanthropist and lifelong Milwaukeean established the Posner Foundation with his wife, Ruth, in 1963 to support local organizations that improve residents’ quality of life, education and health. Years of generous contributions to the Law School culminated in the foundation’s support that enabled the school to expand its pro bono work through creation of the Office of Public Service in 2005. Shortly thereafter, the annual Posner Exchange debuted to promote public service law and celebrate students’ pro bono work. The Posner Foundation has helped shape a unique Law School culture reflected in the extraordinary share of students — averaging around 70 percent — participating in pro bono service opportunities.

A

s a first-generation college student in Marquette’s Educational Opportunity Program, Harvey Anderson says his time on campus changed his trajectory, giving him “a platform to develop the confidence to excel and contribute.” He was mentored and inspired by faculty and friends including the then-EOP director, Dr. Arnold Mitchem, Grad ’81, Hon Deg ’04, who ignited his passion for public policy and opened doors for him early in his career. Anderson later earned his law degree from the University of San Francisco and built a career providing in-house legal counsel to influential Silicon Valley companies including Netscape, AVG, Mozilla and now Hewlett-Packard, where he is chief legal officer and corporate secretary. As an American Leadership Forum fellow, he’s joined a diverse cohort cultivating regional leadership for an equitable Silicon Valley. He pays it forward by hosting and mentoring Marquette students, including those from EOP, who seek careers in the tech industry.
Dear alumni, parents and friends,

Today, we stand on Marquette’s firm foundation amid challenging times and look ahead to our bright future. Since our founding, we have remained steadfast in the call of our Catholic, Jesuit mission and the pillars of leadership, excellence, faith and service. That’s why we are excited to introduce the public launch of Time to Rise: The Marquette Promise to Be The Difference — a $750 million comprehensive fundraising campaign that is our most ambitious in university history.

The generosity of our alumni, parents and friends over the last four and a half years has built philanthropic momentum with the power to change lives — for students, faculty and our campus community. Time to Rise is a campaign to Be The Difference that will galvanize us like never before. Together, we will boldly pursue Marquette’s vision to be among the most innovative and accomplished Catholic, Jesuit universities in the world.

This multi-year endeavor will enrich and expand student opportunities, support our teachers-scholars, foster innovative programs and transform our campus environment. The pages ahead share inspiring examples of how Time to Rise is already coming to life through your generous support.

Thank you for joining us on this journey to preserve Marquette’s founding mission and to help secure our future.

We are Marquette … and it’s time to rise.

Dr. Michael R. Lovell
President
Marquette University

Tim McMahon
Vice President
University Advancement
LEADERSHIP

Ignatian innovation and leadership are alive in new ways at Marquette. From groundbreaking student access programs to immersive experiential learning and cross-college research collaborations, your generosity provides opportunity.

Nursing, reimagined

In a world that needs caregivers more than ever, we are investing in our caregivers more than ever. Marquette Nursing is growing rapidly in demand, and the university is exploring renovation options to ensure high-caliber classrooms, training and simulation spaces for future nurses.

Marquette Nursing currently enrolls 1,287 students, including nearly 400 graduate students from our accelerated Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing program. Overall, the college’s vision is to prepare 5,000 nurses over the next decade and beyond, including 1,000 nurses and leaders from diverse backgrounds to serve in emerging areas like telehealth. To advance this vision, beginning in fall 2021, scholarships will be designated for underrepresented students accepted into the College of Nursing, ramping up to an eventual 80 scholarships per year.

The future of Marquette Business and innovation leadership

Located on the site of the former McCormick Hall at 16th Street and Wisconsin Avenue, Marquette’s new state-of-the-art facility for the College of Business Administration and innovation leadership will build on our strong foundation of nationally ranked programs in Real Estate, Finance, Supply Chain, Accounting, and Part-time and Executive MBA. Anchoring campus’ west gateway, the facility will reach new heights as a dynamic hub for students, faculty, alumni and the business community.

The $60 million project will be the largest fully donor-funded construction initiative in university history. The 100,000-square-foot facility will feature collaborative spaces, wrap-around student support and Marquette’s expanded Excellence in Leadership (E-Lead) Program in collaboration with our Opus College of Engineering.
EXCELLENCE

Learning from some of the world’s best faculty can make a lasting difference for our students, helping them more deeply integrate theory and practice and seek creative solutions. Likewise, our campus environments become beacons of excellence to attract young scholars and students filled with courageous inquiry.

Pursuing the science that heals

As one of the foremost spinal cord researchers in the nation, Dr. Murray Blackmore, associate professor of biomedical sciences, works alongside students to study regenerative ability in neurons — a potential breakthrough in treating paralysis. Feats like this are possible only thanks to research seed funding from the Bryon Riesch Paralysis Foundation, whose namesake suffered a devastating accident in 1998 that left him paralyzed from the chest down. It’s a striking example of how donor-faculty partnerships can advance the science that heals.

Bringing data to life

The pursuit of excellence involves pivoting toward opportunity and vision. It’s part of why Marquette collaborated to launch the Northwestern Mutual Data Science Institute — to power Milwaukee as a technology hub.

FAITH

Marquette immerses students in a vibrant faith that helps them discern how to be men and women for and with others. Our Catholic, Jesuit identity comes to life daily through worship spaces, inclusive programming, classroom curriculum, social justice programming and campus interactions. Through Time to Rise, your gifts can refresh and deepen our faith and social justice activities, which help inspire student success.

Preserving a sacred treasure

Few sacred spaces at Marquette speak as distinctly as St. Joan of Arc Chapel. It is the spiritual anchor of campus — cherished across generations. Yet, even stone as strong as the courage and faith of Joan of Arc requires upkeep after 600-plus years. Marquette has launched a $3 million preservation effort as part of Time to Rise to restore the integrity of this medieval masterpiece.

Revitalizing student success

We have faith in our students and put that belief into action with initiatives that bolster their success, maximize retention and elevate the transformational student experience. Whether it’s our Educational Opportunity Program, the RISE program, college-specific scholarships or our expanded Urban Scholars Program for high-achieving, low-income scholars in the Milwaukee area, holistic student support remains a top university-wide priority.
SERVICE

In our classrooms and beyond, the Marquette family believes in giving of ourselves through service to those in need. Your gifts provide opportunities for students to enter into the larger community to serve as volunteers, deep listeners and compassionate helpers.

Serving student needs for health and wellness
Help us bring to life the Jesuit concept of cura personalis — care for the whole person — through a health and wellness center focused on care for the body, mind, cultural identity and spirit of Marquette students, employees and the community at large. We are exploring options to repurpose the Helfaer Rec Center as a state-of-the-art adaptable fitness and sports facility.

Hearts for service
“Coming here as a freshman, I never thought I’d have the dean of my college write my grad school recommendation letter based on a service trip we took together in another country. But that’s Marquette!”
— Zoya, H Sc ’20, current dental student, Global Brigades participant

AN INVITATION
TO RISE
From the National Campaign Co-chairs
Join us to be the difference for many.

At Marquette, we have been blessed with a family willing to be more than bystanders. To step up again and again as passionate champions. You are an indispensable part of how we bring this campaign to life. The dividends of your support will grow across our students, our campus and the larger community of humankind.

It is with gratitude we say:

We are Marquette. And it’s time to rise.

TIME TO RISE

The steeple of Marquette’s historic St. Joan of Arc Chapel

Students immerse in service through Global Brigades

Chuck and Karen Swoboda
Dr. Scott and Mary Ellen Stanek
After getting dual degrees from Marquette, Nadiyah Johnson, Arts ’14, Grad ’16, noticed something: Her hometown, Milwaukee, was becoming a tech hub.

She was excited to be part of this shift but disappointed there weren’t many people like her in the picture. “There were very few, if any, Black people and women in these rooms,” she recalls. “There was a persistent lack of representation. I suppose … I had had enough.”

Taking matters into her own hands, Johnson founded Jet Constellations in 2017. Already, it’s become one of Milwaukee’s more influential young software companies. “I do my best to run a for-profit company, and at the same time, communicate this message of driving diversity in Milwaukee’s tech ecosystem,” says Johnson, who was named a Milwaukee Business Journal 40 Under 40 honoree in 2020.

Driving that message harder, Johnson created a spinoff, the Milky Way Tech Hub. It hosts workshops, panels, hackathons and design thinking sessions to help entrepreneurs and visionaries. And through a Milky Way partnership with Marquette, students in computer science are gaining real-world experience building pro bono coding for local startups founded by people of color. Johnson finds herself providing the kind of support and opportunity she found valuable in her student days, when professors helped her overcome doubt and commit to her STEM journey. “Then around grad school,” she says, “I started realizing there were individuals just like me who were interested in computer science and wanted mentorship. That’s when I really started to realize my purpose.”

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.

**REUNION YEAR**

Alumni from years ending in 0, 1, 5 and 6, this is your reunion year. Learn about Alumni Reunion Weekend at marquette.edu/alumni.

Peggy Weber, Grad ’80, a reporter for Catholic Communications, was recognized twice by the Catholic Media Conference for her book, Enough as You Are (Loyola Press). The book, which placed first among Family Life titles and second in Self-help, was inspired by readers who’ve shared feelings of inadequacy. Stories of saints and anecdotes about self-doubt show readers they’re not alone. Each chapter ends with an examen and prayer encouraging self-acceptance. “I want to wrap my arms around all of the sad, lonely and confused people and remind them they are enough.” she says.

HONOR ROLE

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THE GREATER GOOD

NEED AMID PLENTY

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As togetherness got redefined over the past year, the Black Alumni Association found rewarding ways to connect as a passionate group within the Marquette University Alumni Association. “We’ve extended our reach — and impact — through virtual events that now attract alumni from around the country,” says BAA President Nikozi “Jay” Knight, Prof St ’08. “While we have a great time with each other at events, our top priority is providing support and encouragement to current Black Marquette students.” That support includes financial assistance for recipients of BAA’s Ralph H. Metcalfe, Sr., Scholarship, calls to students to connect about their well-being, and mentoring students to expand their networks and launch careers. Metcalfe scholarship recipients Erica Jackson, Arts ’19, and Maya Carter, H Sci ’20, are shown above with Knight, who says, “We are a stronger Marquette when everyone thrives, and BAA is here to ensure that happens.”

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

WHAT’S SHAKIN’?

Engage in virtual Moking learning with alumni, parents and university friends through BeyondMU. Visit marquette.university/learning to check out the lineup of programs.

Sherry Knutson, Arts ’93, was ranked in Chambers USA 2020 for Product Liability & Mass Torts.

Dr. John R. Humm, Eng ’94, Grad ’99, ’20, started his new position at the Medical College of Wisconsin as an assistant professor in the Department of Neurosurgery.

Judith L. (McGeorge) Smith, Grad ’96, is managing artistic director of West Performing Arts Center in New Berlin, Wis. Celebrating 10 years with WestPAC, it created West Theatre Arts Program and West Community Theatre Arts. With its partners, WestPAC entertains audiences and educates students of all ages.

Donna R. Hiers, Eng ’95, Grad ’06, was promoted to Dining with the Queen; the 100-mile Endurance Challenge in LaGrange, Wis. This was her 14th ultramarathon and her second 100-mile race.

James Bruce, Arts ’96, wrote Traveling My Way: Communists to DUIs to Dinner with the Queen, which shares adventures and lessons learned from traveling to more than 500 countries. After retiring from a career in residential real estate, Jim earned his degree from Marquette University while his daughter was also studying at Marquette.

Mark Eddington, Eng ’96, executive director of the Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District in DeKalb, Ill., was elected as president of the Central States Water Environment Association in August 2020.

John F. Katies, Grad ’96, has received the Central States Water Environment Association’s 2020 William C. Boyle Educator of the Year Award. He also presented the 2020 Individual Merit Award for Engineer in Education from the Wisconsin Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Christopher Scherer, Eng ’96, received the IAAP 100 Patent 1000 guide.

Elin Condy, Comm ’98, joined CharityEngine, a nonprofit database and fundraising tool, as the vice president of client services.

Kristy R. (Robb) McDermott, Arts ’05, Grad ’12: daughter Hannah, Comm ’23, son William Robb born May 2004, granddaughter with a master’s in public health from the University of Colorado May 2020. In July 2020, he was promoted to program director of the Pediatric Allergy & Immunology Fellow- ship program at National Jewish Health in Denver.

Dr. Marcus Mescher, Arts ’04, professor of Christian ethics at Xavier University in Cincinnati, took nine kids to El Salvador, where the group connected with Anina Boyd-Ramirez, Arts ’07, founder of Progama Velasco. Mescher recently published The Ethics of Encounter (Orijis, 2020), which explores how to apply Pope Francis’ vision for a “culture of encounter” in an America shaped by inequalities and rising divisions.

Lisa (Petersen) Ward, Comm ’04, and Aaron Ward, Eng ’04, Grad ’12, daughter Hannah Theresom born July 26, 2020. She joins sisters Sarah and Rose. Kristy R. (Robb) McCormott, Arts ’05, and Patrick McComer-rott: son William Robb born May 9, 2004, graduated with a master’s in public health from the University of Colorado in May 2020. In July 2020, he was promoted to program director of the Pediatric Allergy & Immunology Fellow- ship program at National Jewish Health in Denver.

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Plus, the Slovaks love beer. “Everything works out to Slovakian life, she says, great place to live.” As for her relocation adventure. International document lett HGTV’s House Hunters couldn’t resist. As an undergraduate left Kelly Taylor, Bus Ad ’06, attractive. In Cleveland, she met Cooper’s offer. She moved to Bratislava, Slovakia, she chance to work in. Coopers offered her the opportunity. She got to explore new areas. She flew over to film with me. It was fun. It was the best move she could have made. She is happy and fulfilled.

10. 2020. He weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces and was 19.7 inches long. He is the couple’s first child. They live in Alexandria, Va.

06. Pasia Duran, Arts ’06, and Jacob Thompson, wed Aug. 31, 2018, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Several alumni were in attendance.


08. Andrea M. (Ives) Collingwood, Comm ’07, and James Collingwood: son Ethan Russell born April 27, 2020. He weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. The family lives in Chicago.

09. Bridget (Kagan) Jennison, Comm ’07, was named director of public relations and strategic communications for Rockford University.


14. Dr. Courtney Jordan-Cox, Comm ’08, is assistant dean of student affairs and New College House dean at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa.

15. Katie (Prov) Schoen, Bus Ad ’08, CFA, CAIA, was named vice president of Baird Capital, the direct private investment arm of Baird. A 12-year Baird veteran, Schoen previously served in the firm’s Wealth Solutions Group.


17. Lynn (Sheka) Griffith, Comm ’09, Grad ’15, and Brandon Griffith: daughter Ava Cheryn born Sept. 21, 2020. She weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20 inches long.


25. Dr. Courtney Jordan-Cox, Comm ’08, is assistant dean of student affairs and New College House dean at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa.
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in grade school, a gift emerged that came from all the support surrounding me,” she says. “For Maggie, ALS is not a problem to be solved,” says Coffey. “Rather, it has been an invitation, as unwellcome as one can imagine, to embrace the whole of human reality, including our inevitable dimmensions and deaths. With renewed intensity, Maggie embraces the...
Send your photo of the happy couple or new addition to your family. We’ll share as many as possible here.


Send milestone photos to marquette.edu/classnotes.
“My wife, Janelle, and I were having dinner with our friend Jessica and her new boyfriend, Kory, when he mentioned he had polycystic kidney disease."
HELP OUR STUDENTS RISE.

By opening doors through scholarship, you have the power to change lives for Marquette students. Your generosity allows talented young people to be driven more by what they can become than by what they owe.

Support scholarship at marquette.edu/giveonline or call 800.344.7544.
BE THEIR BRIDGE
TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

As financial concerns from the pandemic hit home for so many, your gift to Marquette’s Bridge to the Future Fund will help students continue their Marquette education.

Make an immediate difference today at marquette.edu/giveonline or call 800.344.7544.