PACESETTER

O’BRIEN HALL IS MARQUETTE’S NEW HIGH-ENERGY HUB FOR BUSINESS AND INNOVATION LEADERSHIP — AND PART OF A WAVE OF IMPROVEMENTS TRANSFORMING CAMPUS.
Students (and robots) tackle Industry 4.0 in the new Omron Advanced Automation Lab.

Candle company owner and alumna Christiana Trapani is blazing a trail for Ukrainian relief.

Alumna Karen Lincoln Michel is a journalism innovator — and the recipient of Marquette’s most recent honorary degree.

I’ve been around Marquette a long time, as an athletic ambassador. I’m more excited about this group than I ever have been in my life.

— MAURICE “BO” ELLIS, SP ’77, WHO HELPED MARQUETTE WIN THE NCAA MEN’S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1977, ON THE CURRENT BIG EAST CHAMPION MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM LED BY COACH SHAKA SMART

Dr. E. J. and Margaret O’Brien Hall is here as the inviting, state-of-the-art home for Marquette Business and innovation leadership programs — and more transformative projects are on the way. Page 16

Leading illuminating lives of service, mission and influence, this year’s Alumni National Awards recipients include five remarkable All-University awardees. Page 21

Many cold calls and LinkedIn connections later, alumnus Colin Dowdle and some invaluable alumni advisers nurtured a pandemic-borne idea — a collapsible, roll-away standing desk — from prototype to patented product. Page 26

Faculty couple Dean Heidi Bostic and Dr. Stephen Plušáček traded their Milwaukee home for a campus apartment, piloting the idea of faculty living on campus to support students in their daily lives. Page 28

Physician and epidemiologist Dr. Jasmine Zapata, H Sci ’09, continues to improve health outcomes and health equity in Wisconsin — so much so that she has been recognized as a Superhero of Medicine. Page 32
At the center of the men’s Golden Eagles’ distinct culture and success this season (see “Picked to finish ninth” below) was second-year head coach Shaka Smart. Known as a builder of swarming defenses, he helped this team craft one of the nation’s most efficient offenses. He built real relationships with team members and motivated them with now-familiar mantras—urging them to be “dominoes” making the next person better, and calling for “energy-generating behaviors” (anything from a defensive deflection to a chest bump after a score, all tallied carefully by assistants during practices). In frequent, often exuberant motion, Smart emerged as a major source of EGBs himself, which endeared him to fans near and far.

“I’m playing the game I love with my best friends,” junior center Oso Ighodaro said after hoisting the Big East tournament trophy in New York’s Madison Square Garden. His words captured the team’s tight bond and admirable Marquette way of winning. Smart and President Michael R. Lovell both praised how well their values fit each other and their institution. After Lovell missed out on the net cutting at a ceremony at the end of the regular season, Smart vowed, “We just have to go win in the Garden and cut down another net.” That’s exactly what happened, leading to an emotional high, an evening when iconic landmarks in New York and Milwaukee glowed blue and gold. As the great run ended a week later in the NCAA tournament’s second round, loss and gratitude mixed with a sense of more to come.

"PICKED TO FINISH NINTH"

The season that started with a discouraging assessment — Big East coaches rating the Golden Eagles ninth of 11 teams in the conference — ascended step-by-step to thrilling heights. Most wins in program history. First outright Big East regular season championship. First Big East tournament triumph. Junior point guard Tyler Kolek selected as Big East Player of the Year. And Shaka Smart named both Big East and AP College Basketball Coach of the Year. Along the way, the prediction clung to the team — serving alternately as a challenge, an emblem of pride and unquenchable spirit, and an exclamation point on how this group grew and who they became. In the end, phrase and team became part of Marquette lore.
THANKS TO YOU, we are on the rise, and the best is yet to come.

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 or scan the code below.

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

On a recent trip to Washington, D.C., I was interviewed by the editors of a few esteemed national media outlets. In the interviews, a major theme emerged: What is the value of a college degree? In response, I proudly discussed how Marquette is working proactively to become a national leader on this issue.

Media debates over the value of a college education reflect real public interest. Today, prospective students and their families are weighing more heavily than ever the return on this investment. In response, Marquette offers one of the strongest returns in the country. This year, U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review both ranked Marquette as one of their Best Value Schools. From a cost perspective, Marquette’s tuition and fee rate is the fourth lowest among the 57 private universities on the U.S. News top 100 list. These lower costs do not come at the expense of quality; our undergraduate teaching and innovative programming were rated 12th and 41st best in the country, respectively.

The hallmark of a Marquette education remains a high-touch experience underpinned by Catholic, Jesuit values and grounded in the liberal arts and humanities. Despite the challenges facing higher education, our student-to-faculty ratio is 13:1 — the lowest it has been in decades. As highlighted by our student-run business program featured in this issue, our faculty continue to cultivate unique, real-world experiences for students. The Princeton Review recently ranked Marquette as the 12th best school nationally for internships and 16th best for student engagement in community service. With our focus on experiential learning, it is no wonder that Marquette has been ranked the sixth best U.S. university for job placement based on U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard data. By making retention and graduation rates strategic priorities, we believe that our students will continue to receive a return on their investment through an exceptional educational experience that prepares them to enter the workforce successfully.

Such a comprehensive approach will continue our legacy of putting student prosperity front and center in our strategic playbook.

Dr. Michael R. Lovell
President
HEALTH SCIENCES

a pedaling breakthrough

With her trainer that allows legs to move independently, Dr. Sheila Schindler-Ivens has discovered a stroke-therapy device worth sharing with the world.

BY TRACY STAEDTER

In 2014, Dr. Sheila Schindler-Ivens, PT ’89, was investigating how a person’s brain adapts after a stroke to control leg movements when she happened upon a potential rehabilitation breakthrough. Because standard pedal trainers with fixed cranks wouldn’t give them the data they needed, the associate professor of physical therapy and her team created a trainer with a split crank that allowed study participants to pedal each leg independently. Experiments conducted with the device toppled assumptions about stroke patients who have a partially paralyzed leg: It turned out this paretic leg had more muscle function than previously thought. And if resistance or assistance could be calibrated for each leg — and the paretic leg compelled to do its share of the work — that leg could gain in strength and function.

It was a revelation for Schindler-Ivens, suggesting the device, if broadly available, could help physical therapists everywhere improve the mobility of stroke patients, while also reducing the physically demanding treatments therapists undertake to achieve positive outcomes.

The professor pursued — and received — patents for the device. And ready or not, she entered the world of entrepreneurship. “You don’t get these chances every day,” she says. Encouraged by Dr. Kalpa Vithalani, Marquette’s executive director of technology transfer, Schindler-Ivens participated in two commercialization fellowships, where she learned how to identify her market, create a business plan and pitch her technology, which she named CUped for compels use of paralyzed limbs during a form of pedaling.

Then in October, she won the Emerging Company Award in the Healthcare Innovation Pitch competition sponsored by the Clinical and Translational Science Institute of Southeast Wisconsin. That’s a vote of confidence and morale booster as she makes her pitch for capital investment needed to bring CUped to market. “It’s the most impactful thing I’ve contributed,” she says. “It’s the portion of my work most likely to make a difference for people with stroke.”

— Mary Schmitt Boyer, Jour ’77
solid gold
The first release from a student-run craft brewing venture is a hit with Marquette fans — and a grade-A learning experience.

BY DIANE M. BACHA

When four seniors were tapped to launch the first Marquette-themed craft beer, they stepped into a whirlwind. They had four months to create not just a limited-edition brew, but marketing and distribution plans. And — no pressure — it would all culminate on National Marquette Day.

Jackson Cosgriff, Will Dales, Connor Nelson and Gracie Pionek began their task last November in a blur of whiteboarding. They needed a concept that would resonate with their target audience of Marquette alumni, and the packaging had to strike the right chord.

Pionek, whose role was to create the visuals, remembers pitching brand concepts to a “Beer Board” of alumni advisers in the Student Center. They were all Marquette hockey fans, and the packaging had to hit the right chord.

But what excited Pauly most was watching the students learn. He had helped initiate the idea of a Marquette-themed craft beer that would give undergraduates hands-on experience in business. When he and fellow alumni signed up as mentors, they wanted the students to take the reins. “We had the last word pretty much on anything pertaining to the business,” Pionek confirms.

“77 Golden Ale is brewed under the auspices of Blue & Gold Brewing, an LLC established to support an applied learning program in the College of Business Administration. Each year, a new cohort of seniors will collaborate with local alumni brewers to launch a limited-edition, Marquette-themed beer. Additional ventures are envisioned, too. Pauly is joined on the Beer Board by local craft brewers David Dupee, Law ’09, of Good City and Joe Yeado, Bus Ad ’21, of Cather Place, plus Kevin Brauer, Bus Ad ’19, of Draught Guard, a technology used to clean tap lines. Chuck Swoboda, Eng ’89, Marquette’s innovator-in-residence and an investor in a North Carolina craft brewery, was the official “Beer Mentor.” This advisory team supplied behind-the-scenes insights as students grappled with questions around distribution, supply chain, public relations, brand building and profit margins. Not to mention how the ale would taste.

“As students, we always hear about the alumni base and how willing they are to give back to students, and this could not be a better example of that,” says Nelson, who was responsible for sales and marketing. “I’m really proud of our students and the level of dedication and maturity they brought to the project,” says Paul Jones, vice president for university relations and general counsel, who helped the venture navigate legal issues and achieve educational objectives with support from Innovation Marquette, Marquette’s program to advance innovative leadership and education, and its executive director, John Knapp. “They leaned all-in on the learning experience, and they’re grown a lot, too.”

“This was a great opportunity for the students to see firsthand what it’s like to work in a startup,” Pauly says. “We started with a concept and not much else, and they learned how to work through the challenges of turning an idea into reality.”

In partnership with alumni brewery owners, students from with Connor Nelson, Will Dales, Gracie Pionek and Jackson Cosgriff brought “77 Golden Ale to market.

legend on ice
Skipping an opportunity to play for Canada’s junior national hockey team, Donald McFadyen enrolled in Marquette in 1927, where he soon terrorized opponents as “the trickiest and most elusive member of the ‘three Macs’” of Marquette hockey fame, according to Marquette’s yearbook. George McTeer, Jour ’27, and Fudge MacKenzie, Arts ’29, were the other members of the trio, and all three were from Canada.

By the time he was a senior, McFadyen was a two-time All American, joined on the squad by his younger brother Harold, Bus Ad ’32. Led by the “famous Calgary Macs,” Marquette was “one of the most feared varsity hockey outfits in the country,” said the Wisconsin State Journal.

Although Marquette’s 11-year varsity hockey history (ending in 1933) is easy to overlook today, a new book — Victory on Ice: The Chicago Blackhawks’ First Stanley Cups by Paul R. Greenland — gives McFadyen, Arts ’30, some overdue attention, while also painting a vivid picture of Stanley Cup victories in 1934 and 1938 that brought a sense of triumph to Chicago during the gloom of the Great Depression.

The book tracks McFadyen as his story keeps getting more remarkable. The Marquette philosophy graduate player four NHL seasons in Chicago, while also studying law part time at the University of Chicago. He contributed two goals to the storied 1934 playoff run, but after picking up his law degree, he left professional hockey for what became a full life of legal practice, military service and family — plus four years, moonlighting again, this time as an NHL official.

“All the Marquette records indicate he wouldn’t have been in the NHL if he hadn’t played for the Black Hawks,” McFadyen said. “When you look at his career, it’s a classic story of a student athlete doing all those things while also having a love of hockey.”

“Victory on Ice” won Wisconsin’s best sports book of the year award. McFadyen’s story underscores Marquette’s leadership in cybersecurity education. “This is the first and only grant of its kind in Wisconsin,” says award recipient Dr. Debbie Pernull, assistant professor of computer science. In partnership with the National CyberCorps Scholarship for Service program, which aims to prepare qualified specialists for government roles, Pernull and her colleagues will enroll 10 scholarship-supported students pursuing advanced degrees incorporating cybersecurity specialization in research. Along with course work, scholars will join hacking competitions, obtain cybersecurity certifications and mentor high school students. The researcher team, meanwhile, will assess student learning and evolve future educational results.

— Tracy Stoelder
LAW SCHOOL
from one leader to another

Early in her judicial career, Mary E. Triggiano, chief judge of Milwaukee County Circuit Court, was introduced to the concept of restorative justice by former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Janine Geske, Law ’75, Hon Deg ’98. “It was profound,” Triggiano says of the process that brings offenders, victims and even communities together to heal pain and trauma. So profound that Triggiano is succeeding Geske as director of Marquette Law School’s Andrew Center for Restorative Justice. Geske served as inaugural director of the center and will continue as an adviser. “She built the foundation,” Triggiano says. “As I take the baton from her, I will continue to learn from her.”

— Mary Schmitt Boyer, Jour ’77

GRADUATE STUDY
a major step forward

The founding of the Graduate School 100 years ago helped Marquette grow into the university it is today.

BY STEPHEN FILMANOWICZ

During Marquette’s first 40 years, graduate study was a case-by-case affair handled by individual departments. Outside of professional programs such as law and dentistry (established starting around the 25-year mark), advanced degrees were awarded at the rate of less than three per year. But big changes came in 1922–23 when President Albert Fox, S.J., established the Graduate School to bring consistent, measurable standards to graduate study. Even with an enrollment of just 14 that first year, Marquette had one of the first graduate schools at a U.S. Jesuit institution. The Graduate School has gone on to award more than 29,000 advanced degrees.

“Father Fox showed great foresight 100 years ago,” President Michael R. Lovell says. “The creation of the Graduate School was a big step in Marquette becoming a national university known for excellence in research and teaching.” Not surprisingly, the centenary of the Graduate School’s founding has been a cause for celebration. There’s been a campus forum on the future of graduate education, a special graduate student research poster session and colorful banners on light poles honoring a distinguished graduate from each of the school’s 10 decades.

Adding to the positive mood is the state of graduate study at Marquette. After a decade of gently declining numbers, Graduate School enrollment has increased 30 percent since 2016. That’s when Lovell initiated the separation of graduate study and research into distinct units, each headed by a cabinet-level leader. The move proved bullish for research too, where federally funded research expenditures have grown 70 percent in seven years.

For the Graduate School, winning strategies have included expanded and better targeted marketing, flexible online and hybrid academic programs, and an incubator that provides incentives for departments to launch high-quality graduate programs in areas of promising demand. “We’re optimistic about the next 100 years,” says Dr. Douglas Woods, dean of the Graduate School. “Where there’s emerging demand and a good fit with the university’s mission, we’re eager to respond with new and improved programs.”

CLASS ACT
FREED TO FAIL

Stocked with robots and other high-tech tools generously provided by Omron Automation, the new Omron Advanced Automation Lab in Engineering Hall is an ideal place for engineering and business students to learn to implement industrial automation — or Industry 4.0 — in product design, manufacturing and delivery. It’s also where they learn as much from failure as success — “from pushing the envelope on what is possible,” albeit in a safe and calculated manner, says Dr. Philip Vogloweke, associate professor of mechanical engineering. Junior Chris Purney (seated at the keyboard) agrees, saying, “With every failure, I was able to learn something, change my approach, make an adjustment and move on. … To fail is to learn.”
St. Ignatius’ spiritual conversion resulted from a battlefield injury followed by a long and difficult recovery. His story is full of conflict and soul-searching, says Dr. Alexandra Crampton. And it continues to inspire, as this experience led to deep personal transformation and the building of the Society of Jesus.

Learning from Marquette’s Ignatian pedagogy seminars and silent retreats, the associate professor of social welfare and justice had the idea to draw from Ignatian spirituality and pedagogy in proposing transformative responses to conflict on campus. She found a new avenue for realizing the idea through the 2022–23 Faculty Mission Integration Fellowship program, which deepens faculty engagement with Marquette’s mission by lightening teaching loads while faculty work on mission-based initiatives. Fellows participate in biweekly meetings led by Rev. James Voiss, S.J., vice president for mission and ministry, to discuss dimensions of Ignatian heritage and the relevance of their projects.

Voiss says the program is an important resource for helping to integrate Ignatian principles more deeply into the life of the university. “They help us to stay grounded in our identity as a Catholic, Jesuit university,” Voiss says. “Maintaining and cultivating that grounding is essential if we are to deliver on the mission for our students.”

Crampton’s proposal, one of five for 2022–23, focuses on forming stronger relationships across campus by integrating Ignatian pedagogy with training in collaborative negotiation and alternative dispute resolution. The idea was born during strains brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and related budget cutting. “In negotiation theory there is long-standing wisdom that if you have a long-term relationship, the most important thing is how you hold together as an institution during adversity,” Crampton says, citing the need for settings and tools to maintain space for treating conflict as a challenge of encounter and discernment, which can ultimately strengthen trust, relationships and service to the university mission. Restorative justice, disabilities, and racial history and reconciliation are topics other faculty fellows have brought to the table for mission-related projects.

MISSION AND MINISTRY
fellows on a mission
Through a new Jesuit-guided program, faculty members pursue mission-based approaches to today’s challenges.

By Shelby Williamson

Law School
a leader comes home
When Marquette Law School’s Lubar Center for Public Policy Research and Civic Education was founded in 2017, Derek Mosley, Law ‘95, thought, “This would be a perfect place for my skill set.” He was right. Mosley, who served Milwaukee for more than 27 years first as prosecutor and then as municipal judge and has actively worked to improve the lives of its citizens, including through more equitable legal justice outcomes, is now the center’s director. He plans to expand its educational programming and its reach as a place for civil discourse. Because Marquette taught Mosley the importance of diverse ideas, he says returning “truly feels like a homecoming.”

— Traci Staudt

Lookback
Sixty years ago, the Class of 1963 descended to the basement of 500 West Kilbourn Avenue — the former Milwaukee Arena — a crowd of anxious graduates-to-be. Wearing suits and dresses for the imminent ceremony and celebrations to follow, they jockeyed to procure their caps, gowns and regalia. These days, advance pickup over several days makes for more relaxed scenes. And this year, for the second time, Commencement will be held in Fiserv Forum.
**Faith & Athletics**

*a papal priority*

“Challenge yourself in the game of life, as you do in the game of sport,” Pope Francis declared in 2014. Since then, his vision of faith and sports working together to benefit humanity has grown into an international movement — one Marquette will advance when it collaborates with the Vatican to host the 2023 Sport at the Service of Humanity Conference in Milwaukee in November. With support from the Big East Conference and others, the conference will engage leaders from the worlds of faith, academia and sports — all following the lead of the pontiff who sees sports as “a powerful tool to foster human, educational and spiritual growth,” says Monsignor Melchor Sanchez, Vatican cultural minister.

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**Sounds of the Street**

*What I Nearly Missed*

The call of the coffee man.

**By Rev. Garrett Gundlach, S.J.**

Clink-clink. Over the sounds of neighborhood traffic, my ears perk to the telltale tings of the coffee man passing by. Clink-clink. I smile. This was one of the first sounds of Beirut-becoming-home two years ago, soon attached to Jamal, the first person to talk with me on the street. He’s a Syrian, a refugee, a purveyor of sharp Turkish coffee boosted with Nescafé powder (!) and the father of adorable kids who sometimes tag along. Trading news as much as we do, he’s become a friend.

You know the street vendors by their calls — the boiled corn cart guy clicks his tongs, the ka’ak bread guy shouts “ka’aaaaak,” and Jamal clinks two teacups nested in his non-kettle-carrying hand. Like the ice cream truck of my childhood, they send me to the street, at least to say hello.

But today’s clinking brought a hesitation. A sadness. Will I go over? The last few times have been hard: The Lebanese economy’s nosedive, the government’s seeming indifference and some outright discriminations have sharpened the edges of the news he’s been sharing lately. And now his landlord is only taking payment in dollars, 50 to be exact, impossibly expensive when exchanged with the deprecating liras his coffee earns him.

I assure you that, yikes, the coffee itself is no allure. Yet, there is a magnetism quickly felt as I hop the hill of hesitation and watch his worn-in move of dropping both wrap-handled kettles as I approach. He smiles, shifts the teacups to his non-dominant hand and shakes mine, bringing me into a hug and side-beard-to-side-beard greeting kiss. “Khayy,” he says in an accent imitating mine — “my brother” in Arabic. Yes, the “hill” has been getting higher, but we both need this time. To vent. To sigh. To laugh. To explore possibilities. To remember God’s generosity “nechkar Allah” and God’s closeness “Allah ma’ak” at midday — and be that reminder for each other, even just for seven minutes before the clink-clinking begins again.

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**About the Author**

Rev. Garrett Gundlach, S.J., Arts ’09, is a Jesuit priest whose formation has taken him to Lebanon to study Arabic and Islam-Christian dialogue.
It’s a new era for the College of Business Administration.

BY TIM CIGELSKY, COMM’04, GRAD’18, ’20
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PATRICK MANNING

In January, Dr. E. J. and Margaret O’Brien Hall opened its doors, the new home of Marquette Business and innovation leadership programs. “This is the most state-of-the-art college of business in the country,” says acting James H. Keyes Dean Tim Hanley. “It’s a game-changer that will enable our student-focused strategy.” Located at the high-profile corner of 16th Street and Wisconsin Avenue, the building is the bustling centerpiece of a growing college that enrolls the second-largest number of undergraduates at Marquette and boasts highly ranked programs in finance, supply chain, real estate and other specialties. A gathering place for the campus community and the business community, it’s where Marquette is defining the future of business education—with cutting-edge technology, modern classrooms, amenities tailored to student needs and unique opportunities for students from business and beyond to learn to lead cross-disciplinary innovation in tomorrow’s workplaces.
Here are highlights of the new space:

A NEW ENERGY

Mike Stern, Eng ’10, senior project manager at J.H. Findorff & Son, has overseen multiple Marquette construction projects, including this one. As he helped O’Brien Hall take shape, he appreciated the fresh perspective it brings to an iconic campus location (where McCormick Hall once stood). “When I walk through the building, I appreciate the tall ceilings, open spaces to find a spot to study, the flexibility of the academic spaces and the transparency that all the glass provides,” he says. “Everyone can see and feel the energy of everyone around them.”

INTEGRATING WITH CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

Just a short traverse across Westowne Square from the Alumni Memorial Union, the building welcomes students, alumni and the community. An outdoor patio with fire pits invites interaction, as do a cafe just inside the main doors and flexible meeting rooms that can serve as classrooms or host a dinner. A dynamic donor wall with LED lighting greets those entering the first-floor atrium and tells the story of the college through its history, with updates expected for chapters yet to be written. “The design concept fosters interactions with the community,” says Kathleen Kugi-Tom, a senior project manager for facilities planning and management.

THE TECHNOLOGY OF TOMORROW

The importance of supporting online learning became clear during the pandemic. As a result, there are dedicated spaces for faculty to record lectures or podcasts, and smartboards to beam a professor’s notes to remote students. While executive education will primarily be on-site, cameras and LCD screens make it possible to accommodate students or speakers in other cities, states or countries.

Animating the main space of the first floor, the huge scrolling stock ticker of the Applied Investment Management program showcases a signature program innovation leadership programs including E-Lead, a groundbreaking program that brings together students from business, engineering and other disciplines to build team leadership abilities to complement their academic knowledge. “This is becoming one of the most active learning classrooms on campus,” says Lora Strigens, vice president for planning and facilities management, and university architect. It’s a natural place to foster the work of Innovation Alley, a partnership of the College of Business Administration and Opus College of Engineering to support the innovation lifecycle from product development to go-to-market strategies.

HONORING THE DANIELS LEGACY

Longtime faculty member Dr. Joe Daniels, who died in February 2020 just after being named dean, envisioned this building and built support for it. Today, the dean’s office is named after him, and his spirit is felt throughout, including in the pitch pit where students hone their business pitches on peers, professors and outside experts. “This was Joe Daniels’ vision,” says Andy Hunt, Bus Ad ’08, Grad ’13, Vieth Director of the Center for Real Estate, who served on a faculty-student committee convened by Daniels to provide design input. “This is my favorite space in the building.”

100 PERCENT DONOR FUNDED

Alumni and Marquette supporters stepped up to fund the creation of the $60 million, 109,000-square-foot building. And much of the fundraising even occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. “The most gratifying part of this project is that it’s 100 percent donor funded,” Hanley says. “Never in our 140-plus year history have we ever had a project of this scale be fully funded by donors.”

70 years, but how we teach now is different,” Hanley says. “Very few tables and chairs in O’Brien Hall are screwed into floors. We’ve designed it for how professors teach today.”

STUDENT FOCUS

From the first steps one takes in the lobby, there is no doubt that student care is at the heart of the building’s design. The first floor provides wrap-around student support through centralized advising, the Student Success Center and Business Career Center, plus ample seating and study space for students to settle into. “O’Brien Hall centers around collaboration,” says senior Jackson Gearen, who served on a committee to provide student perspective. “The space is very open, which creates lots of opportunities for students to gather and work on homework or group projects, or grab a cup of coffee together.”

REACHING ACROSS DISCIPLINES

A spacious interactive classroom on the fourth floor is home to innovation leadership programs including E-Lead, a groundbreaking program that brings together students from business, engineering and other disciplines to build team leadership abilities to complement their academic knowledge. “This is becoming one of the most active learning classrooms on campus,” says Lora Strigens, vice president for planning and facilities management, and university architect. It’s a natural place to foster the work of Innovation Alley, a partnership of the College of Business Administration and Opus College of Engineering to support the innovation lifecycle from product development to go-to-market strategies.

OPEN COLLABORATION

The discipline of business requires collaboration and openness. For example, sales and marketing can’t succeed if they’re cut off from what’s happening in supply chain. Investors may fail if they don’t connect with accountants and auditors. With these factors in mind, O’Brien Hall provides for optimal flexibility. Classrooms can be divided or opened up, and seating arrangements — or rearrangements — can accommodate lectures, online learning or group projects. “Straz Hall served us well for
MOMENTUM BUILDERS

O’Brien Hall is part of a wave of physical improvements at Marquette. As envisioned in Marquette’s campus master plan and supported by the Time to Rise philanthropic campaign, the newest additions build on momentum from projects such as the Athletic and Human Performance Research Center and the Physician Assistant Studies Building in 2019.

And the pace continues to build. With several high-impact projects getting underway now, the biggest physical transformation in the university’s history will come in 2024, with an exciting near-campus district set to debut the following year.

A ST. JOAN OF ARC CHAPEL (2021)
Restoration with new gratitude garden

B SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY (2022)
Clinics renewal, phase 1

C O’BRIEN HALL (2023)

D CHAPEL OF THE HOLY FAMILY (2024)
Renovation with new adjacent patio

E WELLNESS + RECREATION CENTER (2024)
On site of Helfaer Tennis Stadium and Recreation Center

F LEMONIS CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (2024)
In renovated Memorial Library

G NEW HOME OF COLLEGE OF NURSING (2024)
In renovated Straz Hall, former home of Marquette Business

H THE IRON DISTRICT (2025)
Privately developed mixed-use district featuring hotel, apartments and home stadium for Marquette soccer and lacrosse

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF MARQUETTE’S ALUMNI NATIONAL AWARDS FOR LIVES OF SERVICE, INFLUENCE AND TRANSFORMATION.

In ceremonies extending from April to June, Marquette is honoring 49 awardees who embody Marquette’s mission with their achievements and impact. In these pages, we profile the five remarkable recipients of the All-University Awards, who will be celebrated on June 2.
ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Thomas H. Werner, Eng ’86
Los Altos, California

Tom Werner credits Marquette with accelerating his success by shaping his work ethic, ability to set priorities and quest for excellence. “Marquette taught me the importance of being in service of others,” he says. “It gave me a much stronger moral compass.” That compass has guided Werner’s career of building great companies with the potential to positively impact the world. Joining California-based SunPower in 2003 when it had just 30 employees, Werner served 18 years as CEO, building it into two publicly traded companies that are leaders in making and installing high-efficiency solar systems. He is currently board chairman of H2U and FLO. Just as transformative is Werner’s passion for philanthropy that empowers others to achieve their potential, as embodied in his significant leadership gifts, with his wife, Suzanne, to fund scholarships for first-generation Marquette students, establish a faculty chair and postdoctoral fellowship in sustainability (in the Opus College of Engineering) and support the award-winning RISE pre-orientation program for multicultural and underrepresented students.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Rajesh Vashist, Grad ’84
Los Altos Hills, California

Rajesh Vashist believes in the power of innovation. His passion is building great companies and enabling them to thrive with a carefully crafted blend of culture and process. Originally from India, Vashist came to Marquette as an MBA student in the early 1980s, finding a pathway that led him to join four tech startups, help two of them become public companies and lead twice as CEO. As CEO of SiTime since 2007, he has led the company in design innovations that boost the speed, reduce the size and improve the precision of semiconductor timing chips in devices people depend on in their daily lives. To power these advances, Vashist has built a culture of relentless innovation where employees are challenged and empowered to create. “What lies beyond will only be limited by our imagination,” he says.
SERVICE AWARD
Dr. Howard L. Fuller, Grad '85
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

As an educator and civil rights activist, Dr. Howard Fuller became renowned for his passion for community organization and his remarkable ability to develop leadership potential in others. “My work is what defines me,” he says. “To make a difference for people who are forgotten or sometimes shunned in our society.” While his activism has encompassed issues such as race, poverty and class division, education has been the common thread. Fuller joined Marquette in 1977, serving with one of the nation’s first Educational Opportunity Programs. After a time working in Wisconsin Gov. Tony Earl’s cabinet during the 1980s, Fuller returned to Marquette, ensuring a lasting legacy at the university when he founded the Institute for the Transformation of Learning in 1995. His courage has been a powerful force of change.

SPIRIT OF MARQUETTE AWARD
(ACHIEVEMENT BEFORE AGE 40)
Adam M. McCostlin, Bus Ad ’06, and Elizabeth (Feste) McCostlin, Arts ’06
Evanston, Illinois

Marquette ignited their passion to make a difference, say Adam and Beth McCostlin, equipping them both with the determination to “go forth and set the world on fire.” Adam is a managing director at Cushman & Wakefield, where he is a broker for commercial and industrial real estate clients. Beth is a managing director at UNICEF USA, where she mobilizes philanthropy and advocacy support for UNICEF’s work to pursue a better world for every child. She is a U.S. Army Reserve veteran who spent a year in Baghdad, Iraq. They both serve as members of the Marquette President’s Advisory Council and co-chairs of the Young Alumni Committee for the Time to Rise campaign. “Marquette is in our hearts and bones,” they say. “To be recognized for this award is a reminder to continue doing our best to lead lives that would be deemed a success through the lens of Marquette’s mission.”

WHERE THE LIGHTS SHINE BRIGHTEST
Marquette’s 2023 awards are being celebrated beginning in April, with ceremonies related to individual colleges and groups, culminating with a dinner on June 2 honoring the All-University Award recipients.

April 21 | School of Dentistry
April 27 | Law School
May 31 | Association of Marquette University Women and Institute for Women’s Leadership
June 1 | College of Business Administration; Department of Intercollegiate Athletics; Helen Way Klingler College of Arts and Sciences and College of Education; Opus College of Engineering
June 2 | College of Nursing; College of Health Sciences; J. William and Mary Diederich College of Communication; All-University Awards And join us for Alumni Reunion Weekend, June 2 – 4, marquette.edu/reunion.
COLIN DOWDLE HAD AN IDEA FOR A PRODUCT HE WAS SURE COULD BE A HIT. HARD WORK — AND SOME INCREDIBLY VALUABLE ALUMNI ADVISERS — MADE IT HAPPEN.

BY GUY FIORITA

Working from his cramped, shared Chicago apartment, taught Colin Dowdle, Bus Ad ’17, that the world needed a standing desk that could easily collapse to roll under a bed or sofa, so he decided to put his entrepreneurship major to work. He teamed up with his father, Jim, to design, fabricate and launch the Lillipad desk. As the young alumnus navigated a minefield of challenges to bring his innovative product to market, a host of experienced alumni took his cold calls, accepted his LinkedIn invitations and steered in to help him over some big hurdles.

LAYING A FOUNDATION

Before there was the Lillipad, there was Marquette nurturing Dowdle’s entrepreneurial ambitions. With encouragement and support from the entrepreneurship program of the College of Business Administration and the Kellner Center for Entrepreneurship in the 707 Hub, he grew his own startup business making backyard ice rinks and interned at another startup.

GARAGE PROTOTYPING

Dowdle sets up shop in his parents’ garage in Glenview, Illinois, in March 2020 to begin working on prototypes with his dad. After dozens of tries and countless trips to the hardware store, they have a functioning table.

PATENTING

To navigate the patent process, Dowdle turned to attorney Kevin McCormick, Eng ’10, Law ’14, whom he cold-called based solely on an online search. McCormick drew on his connections. “Having their experience is a dream for any young entrepreneur,” he says. “Without them, Dowdle would be nothing more than a cool business idea that I never pursued.”

SEARCHING FOR SUPPLIERS

Dowdle engaged an industrial design firm to turn his DIY prototype into something manufacturable. Then, to find manufacturers to supply the parts, Dowdle solicited help from Tom Foust, Sp ’85, and Matt Umentum, Bus Ad ’85, alumni executives with experience manufacturing products in the Midwest. Their advice helped Dowdle manage quality expectations on job sites. Dowdle is convinced he’d be nowhere near this far without his Marquette connections. “Having their experience is a dream for a young entrepreneur,” he says. “Without them, Lillipad would be nothing more than a cool business idea that I never pursued.”

EXPERIENCE PRODUCING CUSTOM DISPLAYS. They ordered dozens of variants of certain pieces until they had a manufacturable prototype.

FINANCING

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, everything had to be adjusted upwards,” says Dowdle. Supply chain hiccups and inventory needs created a need for seed-round fundraising and a banking partner aligned with Lillipad’s goals. A warm introduction to Michael O’Bourke, Bus Ad ’90, CEO of Chicago-based Signature Bank, helped Lillipad meet its banking needs. Lillipad also closed a round of seed funding in early 2022 — $3 million, according to Securities and Exchange Commission filings. Dowdle was then able to commit to manufacturing and purchasing inventory.

BUILDING BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE

Although experienced with smaller startups, Dowdle hadn’t tackled a venture this complex or scalable. Fortunately, he could rely on the advice of seasoned business professionals such as Matt Umentum and Bob Weyers, Bus Ad ’87; Grad ’88. Through meetings at coffee shops, they gave him downloads on cash flow, operational finances, employee growth, asset management and organizational growth. “Matt and Bob understand Lillipad’s growth. They didn’t know Dowdle in the beginning, but several alumni stepped up to assist and mentor him. “Colin was strategic with his ask,” says Marty Merrick, Sp ’85 (below right). “He was able to tell his story quickly and precisely. I knew from our first conversation: Colin valued my time, and whatever assistance I could offer would be well received.”

LAUNCHING LILLIPAD

Since debuting in June 2022, Lillipad is finding traction with companies aiming to support the productivity and wellness of their remote and hybrid workers. With its portability and assembly-required convenience, construction firms have found it a great solution for trailers on job sites. Dowdle is convinced he’d be nowhere near this far without his Marquette connections. “Having their experience is a dream for a young entrepreneur,” he says. “Without them, Lillipad would be nothing more than a cool business idea that I never pursued.”

As developed by Dowdle and his team, Lillipad is a powered, portable workstation — all-in-one solution — for anyone who doesn’t have a permanent home office.

Visit lillipad.com to learn more.
When Dr. Heidi Bostic and Dr. Stephen Pluháček heard a knock on their apartment door one evening in October, they couldn’t help but wonder: Could this be it?

The couple had left their large Milwaukee East Side house to live in a Marquette-owned apartment building, replacing neighbors they knew with students they were getting to know. They’d taken the plunge to pilot an idea: faculty living on campus to support students in their day-to-day lives and learning experiences — with the added bonus of shorter commutes and more personal connections.

Right away, the commutes were undoubtedly better. Bostic and Pluháček enjoyed their apartment and sensed things were going well. But the personal connections? They didn’t yet know whether students saw them as a helpful resource or an awkward intrusion. Wouldn’t it be great, they thought, if someone would just drop by?

Bostic opened the door to see two young women, one a familiar face and smiling, the other less familiar and hanging back a bit. They lived three doors down the hall, the women explained, and their refrigerator had broken. They were in the middle of making enchiladas when they realized their cheese had spoiled. Might Bostic and Pluháček have any to spare?

“And we did,” Bostic says. “Lots of it.”

Katie Darragh and Maryn Schaeffbauer couldn’t have known how much their question meant to the couple. Darragh had met them before and knew they would welcome visitors, but had to convince her roommate it would be OK. Clearly, it was. “Stephen was so excited that we had come by to ask for cheese,” Darragh recalls with a laugh.

Inside, Pluháček, who does most of the cooking, began pulling out an impressive array of cheeses. There was friendly chit-chat — some of it in Spanish between Bostic and Schaeffbauer — before the neighbors headed home with a bag of mozzarella, a generous bowl of homemade butternut squash soup, and a nutmeg clove that Pluháček promised would be awesome grated over the soup before serving.

AFFIRMING A VISION

That simple favor and others that followed — the couple were delighted to lend a can opener a few evenings later — helped validate their decision. “It sounds silly,” Bostic says, “but it feels like a victory that students are comfortable enough to come and knock on our door.” Bostic and Pluháček’s move to campus was motivated by personal convictions, past experiences and some practical “why not?” considerations. By the time they arrived at Marquette in the spring of 2020 — she to become dean of the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences (and later the College of Education), he as an affiliated faculty member in the Department of Theology — their academic careers had sent them around the globe. They loved the time they spent in urban areas where they could walk more than drive, encounter people by chance and get to know their community.

“I guess part of it is we’re trying to live out our good Jesuit values of discernment,” Bostic says. “We tend to ask how could this be better, how could we be doing more?” Thoughts about simplicity and convenience played a role. With no children or pets, the move would be easy. And, as with so many
The couple approached Mary Janz, executive director of housing and residence life, without knowing she had been mulling the faculty-in-residence idea for years. “It was a beautiful meeting of the minds,” says Janz.

A spacious, furnished apartment that had once been home to then-President Scott Pilarz, S.J., happened to be available. It was on Wells Street near the Alumni Memorial Union. Three months later, Bostic and Pluháček moved in. “We immediately felt as much or more at home here than we did in our house,” says Pluháček. “Probably because it was the right decision.”

A NATURAL FIT

Discernment isn’t the only core Jesuit value behind the fledgling initiative. The Jesuit practices of establishing ministries in urban centers, educating the whole person and extending the learning environment outside the classroom are all in keeping with the concept. There’s already an honored tradition of Jesuit priests living on campus and faculty engaging with Marquette’s living learning communities. Equally compatible is Marquette’s commitment, as an anchor institution of the Near West Side Partners, to developing the neighborhoods around campus. That initiative’s PARC program — Promoting Assets, Reducing Crime — is working to attract more faculty and staff to neighborhoods like Bostic and Pluháček’s.

Janz sees faculty as a fitting complement to the existing support systems in residence halls that include full-time professional staff, student resident assistants and hall ministers. “I see them working together in really beautiful ways, looking at residents’ academic lives, their faith and spiritual side, and as college students learning to live independently.”

Bostic and Pluháček are actively exploring ways to expand beyond the pilot, learning as they go. Bostic calls it a “deeply collaborative process” involving colleagues from the offices of Residence Life and Student Affairs along with resident assistants, Campus Ministry, the Jesuit community, faculty, facilities staff and more. As teams work deliberately on cross-departmental planning and partnerships, they see endless possibilities. Could resident faculty offer classes, study groups or even office hours in residence halls? How can Student Affairs be involved?

Bostic and Pluháček are living in a university-owned apartment building for upperclass students, but there’s agreement to focus next on first-year students and sophomores who are more likely to benefit from the support. More formalized academic programming is also on the priority list.

WELL-ESTABLISHED BENEFITS

Beyond borrowed cheese and kitchen utensils, the benefits of faculty-in-residence programs and like-minded efforts such as faculty mentored research or faculty-led educational travel are actually measurable. Students report having stronger learning experiences when they have close relationships with faculty and staff, says Dr. Jody Jessup-Anger, professor and chair of educational policy and leadership, whose research focuses on how the collegiate environment affects student learning and development. “The outcomes really are around learning more, developing critical thinking skills and students feeling like they are more connected to campus.”

That makes sense to Darragh, Bostic and Pluháček’s cheese-borrowing neighbor. She’s enthusiastic about having faculty in residence. “The most meaningful experiences I’ve had at Marquette are those moments where I’m connecting with faculty or staff in conversations that aren’t surrounded by curriculum,” she says. “It’s more surrounded by a mentoring relationship.” Darragh, a junior majoring in corporate communication with a German minor, can imagine how helpful a residence program would be to new students who are still becoming comfortable around learning more, developing critical thinking skills and students feeling like they are more connected to campus.”

“Everyone met one another. Darragh and Schaeftbauer were there. So was a first-year student who met her hosts when they volunteered on move-in day at her first-year residence hall, then later bumped into them at Church of the Gesu. Several brought friends. Bostic and Pluháček listened closely as their guests shared observations. They said they loved the idea of faculty in residence. They had practical observations about how to make it work (examples: take the initiative with outreach, organize study sessions — and remember that food is always a good idea). Perhaps building on the rapport the couple had already started establishing with them, “they freely discussed difficult topics and shared their opinions and views perhaps more openly than would be customary in a classroom setting,” says Bostic. “So, I am wondering if faculty in residence can help to foster challenging conversations.”

The dinner, those early knocks on the door, impromptu conversations and shared shuttle bus rides downtown for Golden Eagles basketball games, have all convinced Bostic and Pluháček that there is both the need and the desire for the connections that a faculty-in-residence program can offer. “Just those brief hallway interactions where you ask, ‘How are you doing? Can mean a lot,” says Bostic. “It’s another way to live out our Catholic, Jesuit mission by demonstrating cura personalis, that is, engaging with students as whole human persons. It’s really an honor and a privilege to live among Marquette students.”

“In-Between Moments

Impromptu hallway conversations and shared shuttle bus rides to games at Fiserv Forum helped Bostic and Pluháček strike up connections with their student neighbors, hosting students for a home-cooked meal led to deeper and more meaningful exchanges.”

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“I am wondering if faculty in residence can help to foster challenging conversations.”

— Junior Katie Darragh (second from left above)
“Since I was 5 years old, I’ve known I wanted to be a doctor,” says Jasmine Zapata, M.D.

She has proof. In an elementary school notebook, she chose “doctor” as her future profession even though, at 5, Zapata wasn’t even sure what a doctor did. “When God has planted inside you a purpose in life, you know it at a very young age,” she explains.

Zapata, H Sci ’09, has more than made good on her aspirations. Today, she is a pediatrician and a newborn hospitalist at Unity Point Health—Meriter hospital in Madison — attending high-risk deliveries and ensuring newborns and parents have access to an empathetic physician in the vulnerable moments after a birth. Outside the hospital setting, she is an assistant professor in the department of pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. And that’s not all. She is an author, activist, mentor and now chief medical officer and state epidemiologist for community health at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Knowing her purpose since kindergarten has helped physician and future Superhero of Medicine. Today, Zapata helps integrate medical and public health policy at the federal, state and local levels. She’s focused on maternal and child health, as well as chronic disease prevention.

And as state epidemiologist, she has advised leadership on coronavirus prevention. To share information on vaccine safety, particularly in at-risk communities, Zapata has appeared on billboards and news broadcasts, and met with church congregations. “I didn’t know I’d be living through a pandemic, but everything from medicine to Marquette’s emphasis on Be The Difference to my faith and everything I’ve done, I am excited and open to all that call to serve,” Zapata says.

Seeking lives to touch, Zapata conducts extensive community-based work with local nonprofits and is the founder of the Beyond Beautiful Girls Empowerment Movement. A creative at heart, she is the author of a girl’s empowerment book series that is taught in Midwest schools.

After decades of pursuing her passion to make people’s lives healthier and more equitable. You could say it’s her superpower.

Zapata was pursuing her degree in biomedical sciences at Marquette when her 6-year-old brother, Aaron, died suddenly from epilepsy. Zapata’s grief was overwhelming. She had passive suicidal thoughts and even considered dropping out of school. Only with time, faith and family did she begin to heal. She used her grief to reignite her desire to be a doctor. “I wanted to prevent this feeling of loss, and children dying too early, in others,” Zapata says. “I knew it was my destiny to work to conquer premature death.”

While grieving, Zapata was grateful to have chosen Marquette, a school close to home whose faith-based values and individualized attention made her feel supported. A Burke Scholar and track star, Zapata continued her streak as a high-achiever (she had been valedictorian at Milwaukee’s Riverside University High School). After Marquette, she enrolled in the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, where she juggled life as a student, wife and new mother.

Zapata’s family urged her forward. “Through the ups and downs” that kept coming, she says. While in medical school and raising an 18-month-old, Zapata became pregnant again. Her second child, a daughter, was born at just 25 weeks. She was 1 1/2 pounds and on life support in her early days. “I had to make the decision: Will this make me quit or keep going?” Zapata recalls. “I chose to keep going.”

Research shows Black women are at higher risk for premature birth. Zapata’s experience with her own daughter’s birth inspired her to work to improve maternal and child health. After completing medical school, she went into pediatrics in Madison, researching community health best practices and saving babies in high-risk deliveries. Seeing persistent social inequities in maternal and child health, Zapata’s experience with her own daughter’s birth inspired her to work to improve maternal and child health. After completing medical school, she went into pediatrics in Madison, researching community health best practices and saving babies in high-risk deliveries. Seeing persistent social inequities in maternal and child health, as well as chronic disease prevention. Today, Zapata looks forward to continuing to advance maternal and child health and to enjoying family life. But parts of her story are yet to be written. “It feels a little bit like a cliff hanger,” she says about her future. “I don’t try to plan my whole life out anymore. I am excited and open to all God has planned for me in my future.”

After all, a superhero’s work is never done.
Less than a decade after being a student on campus, Andre Ghelfi-Thomas jumped at the chance to renew its dental clinics.

The School of Dentistry’s clinics underwent a $5 million renewal over the past year that resulted in 46 thoroughly refreshed and modernized workstations known as “operatories” and a new Digital Dentistry Center. And making sure the project turned out right and performed well, both for student instruction and care delivery to the community, was an engineering alumnus who turns just 30 this spring: Andre Ghelfi-Thomas, Eng ’16, project manager for The Boldt Co., the project’s general contractor.

“It was really a homecoming for me,” Ghelfi-Thomas says. “It was cool to see the excitement of the students and staff working past our job site daily and asking for updates.” The rising leader oversaw the construction through its completion, bridging the gap between architects, trade partners, construction crews and the university. The work is part of a larger plan that anticipates modernizing more than 550 operatories in the coming years.

Last year, Ghelfi-Thomas renewed his Marquette ties in another way, joining dozens of fellow professionals in the first cohort of Marquette’s new Igniting Insights professional development program. “It helped me take a step back and rise out of the details of my day-to-day job,” he says.

As project manager, walking the streets of campus in boots and hard hat, Ghelfi-Thomas says his campus memories were still fresh enough that he identified with students he saw emerging from classes. Yet with nearly eight years of industry experience under his belt, he appreciated serving in a different role. “To be able to give back and help build at the school that gave me an opportunity, that was really rewarding for me.”

Marquette Magazine and the Alumni Association accept submissions of news of personal and professional achievements and celebrations for inclusion in “Class Notes.” Visit classnotes.marquette.edu/submit to share your news or milestones photo. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for content, accuracy and length. Publication of the news, events and milestones of our alumni does not constitute endorsement by Marquette University.

BY ANNA FUNK

REUNION YEAR

Alumni Reunion Weekend is June 2–4, 2023. We will celebrate undergraduate class years ending in a 3 or 8 and our First Reunion (Class of 2022)! Get connected at marquette.edu/reunion.

John (Jack) Sullivan, Jour ’53, Grad ’60, was honored with the 2022 Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award from the City of Alausnda, Va., for his work to reduce pollution of the Potomac River.

William Emanuel, Arts ’60, recently retired from the practice of law in Las Angeles and moved with his wife to a retirement community in Napa, Calif. Previous to that, Emanuel spent four years as a member of the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, D.C.

Dr. William Lowe, Grad ’74a, retired after 49 years teaching theology at The Catholic University of America.

James Mulder, Jour ’75, a reporter for The Post-Standard in Syracuse, N.Y., was named the 2022 Journalist of the Year in the Journalism Association of New York’s annual statewide competition. Mulder’s award-winning work included coverage of problems at nursing homes, analysis of upheaval at local hospitals over finances and the increase in deaths by suicide. Mulder has been a reporter for The Post-Standard and syracuse.com for 44 years.


Jeffery Gerritt, Grad ’80, is a digital page editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. While touring Ukraine and border countries in late spring 2022, Gerritt wrote a series of columns, “Heart of Ukraine,” about the effects of the war with Russia on ordinary Ukrainians inside the country and those living as refugees in Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Gerritt was in Kyiv during the Russian bombing of the city June 5. The winner of a 2020 Pulitzer Prize for an editorial series on deadly conditions in Texas jail, Gerritt has also been named to the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania News Leaders Association.


David Canitz, Eng ’81, was named senior application sales engineer with Cummins Power Generation South.

Robert Larkin, Bus Ad ’82, a 39-year financial adviser veteran with Merrill Lynch, was ordained a deacon in the Catholic Church in 2016 in the Diocese of Joliet, Ill. He served at St. Elizabeth Seton in Naperil, Ill., for six years and recently joined the Fox Point, Wis., parish of St. Eugene’s and the Whitefish Bay, Wis., parish of St. Monica’s.

Thomas Magee, Arts ’82, a partner at Rea&Beeman, joined the Mediator Panel of United States Arbitration & Mediation.

Patrick Cordero, Bus Ad ’83, was named the United States Minority Chamber of Commerce Attorney of the Year for 2022–2023.

Deena Zymm, Jour ’95, joined EarthSoft, an environmental database management company, as the corporate librarian.

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When first-generation Filipina American Christina (Borja) McAlvey, Bus Ad ’01, received an Instagram message inviting her to apply to be a contestant on a PBS cooking competition series, she thought it was a scam. But The Great American Recipe was no joke. McAlvey, a small business lender and yoga instructor, made the cut and was able to show off her “Fili-fusion” food — a term coined by husband Ryan McAlvey, Arts ’01 — in front of millions. She didn’t win, but this otherwise reluctant amateur chef says being in the limelight taught her to put her food out there “and, by extension, myself and my story, for people to consume.”

FOR IT

GOING FOR IT

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. While touring Ukraine and border countries in late spring 2022, Gerritt wrote a series of columns, “Heart of Ukraine,” about the effects of the war with Russia on ordinary Ukrainians inside the country and those living as refugees in Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Gerritt was in Kyiv during the Russian bombing of the city June 5. The winner of a 2020 Pulitzer Prize for an editorial series on deadly conditions in Texas jail, Gerritt has also been named to the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania News Leaders Association.


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FOR IT
**The Road Less Traveled**

When Abbey Algiers, CJPA '93, walked 120 kilometers of Spain’s famed Camino de Santiago last fall with alumni friends and family members, she came equipped. Her pen was for member, she came last fall with

**REUNION YEAR**

1. Dr. Patricia (Croke) Becker, Comm '89, is a professor at the Keller College of Education, Library and Leadership at Cardinal Stritch University. She recently published her first children’s picture book, Orange S'more-ange, with Mascot Books.

2. Michael Beaumelle, CJPA '93, was elected to the Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame in Boston in September 2022. “Ban” has been the morning show host at WQXW/rock102 in Springfield, Mass., for the past 27 years and was inducted with his former partner, John O’Brien.

3. Jennifer Fickers-Braun, Arts '90, received her educational specialist degree in curriculum and instruction-ESL from National Louis University and is a second-grade special education teacher in the East Aurora (NY) School District 131.

4. Jessica (Pereira) Barcomb, Arts '92, published her first novel, Letting Go, about love and healing, and how we are all here to ultimately help each other.

5. Brien Ott, Bus Ad '93, Grad '99, and Ryan Klemann, Bus Ad '99, received a Telly Award – Gold for an online commercial in Chicago, was nominated for three awards at the Chicago/Midwest Emmy Dinner: Outstanding Achievement in an Evening Newscast, Breaking News, and Daily News Report.

6. Kevin J. Lee, Arts '95, executive vice president and CEO at Mid-America Transplant, was selected to serve as the organization’s next president and CEO.

7. Jason Pieper, Comm '95, a senior software developer, was named project team lead for the System Engineering Management Capability project within the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency in May 2022.


**OPPOSITE PAGE TOWARD CLASS-MELON’S FIRES ALL CREATIVE**

**Candle Power**

Christiana Trapani had never made a candle before, but that didn’t stop her from setting the world on fire. After joining Door County Candle Co. in 2021 and learning the craft, Trapani, a second-generation Ukrainian American, made custom candles for a school fundraiser in Chicago’s Ukrainian Village neighborhood. With the help of other blue and yellow candles on hand, Trapani started selling them to raise money for her family’s home country after it was invaded by Russia last year. She thought she’d sell 100 at most. She would end up selling tens of thousands all over the world. “Marquette helped me find a passion for entrepreneurship,” Trapani says. “The Difference really did inspire me to think about how I can be a positive difference in the community I’m living in and beyond.” Door County Candle has now contributed more than $686,000 to Razon’s Ukrainian relief fund and sent 10,000 candles to the Ukrainian people.
HONOR ROLE
Four years after her history-making appointment as a U.S. Marine Corps brigadier general, Maj. Gen. Lorna Mahlock, CPA ‘95, has broken the brass ceiling again as the Marines’ first Black female two-star general. President Joe Biden appointed her to the rank and the U.S. Senate confirmed her appointment in December. In addition to serving as a commander in three Iraq War deployments, the Jamaican-born Mahlock has served as the Corps’ chief information officer, the first woman in that role.

CURRENTLY DEPUTY DIRECTOR CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER, THE JAMAICAN-BORN MAHLOCK, CJPA ’91, HAS THREE IRAQ WAR DEPLOYMENTS, SERVING AS A COMMANDER IN CHIEF AND COMMISSIONER FOR COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR THE 12TH DISTRICT IN ILLINOIS.

REUNION YEAR
Garritt Bader, Eng ’03, was named the 2022 Businessperson of the Year by the Greater Bay Chamber of Commerce. Bader is a principal at CB Real Estate Investments LLC.

LaShonda (Winton) Hill, Comm ’01, joined ABE Industries as senior director of HR Data Quality & Analytics.

Gloria Aldrete, Arts ’02, Law ’04, has joined Hansen Reynolds LLC as partner. Her areas of focus include commercial, civil, labor, discrimination and employment litigation matters. Aldrete is also a lecturer teaching criminal justice and criminology at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. She previously was director of stakeholder engagement at Alliant Energy and executive director of the City of Milwaukee’s Fire and Police Commission.

Heather (Olson) Lore, Bus Ad ’04, was named executive director of the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions.

Diana (Gonzalez) Rusk, Bus Ad ’04, and Andrew Ruscson Elliott born Aug. 27, 2022.

John Schuler, Law ’04, was appointed chairman of the board of Villa Saint Francis, an assisted living center in Milwaukee.

Mike Cosgrove, Arts ’04, and Melissa Cosgrove, Joseph Patrick born June 30, 2022. (J) joins two older sisters.

Meghan (Judy) Luh, Nurs ’05, was elected to serve on the National Student Nurses’ Association Inc. Nurses board as a director at large.

Lacey Sadoff, Comm ’05, was named to the 2023 Wisconsin Titan 500 program, which recognizes Wisconsin’s top 500 CEOs and C-level executives in 2022.

Dr. Melissa Huerta, Grad ’06, published her first monograph in August 2021: Representing Latinos: Reproductive Decision-Making with Lexington Books. Huerta is an associate professor of Spanish at Denison University.


Lauren (Jorgensen) Barlow, M.D., Eng ’03, and Brian Barlow, daughter Olivia Clarice born Aug. 18, 2022. She joins big sisters Quinn, 6, Emma, 4, and Addison, 2.

Daniel Calandrello, Bus Ad ’01, won the Democratic Party primary for Cook County commissioner for the 12th District in Illinois.

Richard Orten, Arts ’01, Trial Lawyer and managing partner at Gask Tunk LLC in Milwaukee, was elected chairman of the Board of Directors of Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company based in Madison, Wisc.

Tommy Schnetz, Bus Ad ’02, and Jennifer Mackie, wed Sept. 10, 2022, in Carpinteria, Calif. Several Marquette alumni were in attendance.

Nkazi “Jay” Knight, Prof St ’08, joined the board of directors of the Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship with a mission to assist in empowering future generations of leaders to become tomorrow’s business owners, financial educators and philanthropists.

Dan O’Donovan, Arts ’08, joined Randall Partners as a new partner in 2022.

Katie (Shay) Perault, Arts ’08, was named associate general counsel and director of human rights at Cisco Systems Inc.

Deeds Not Words
When there are individuals in need, the Marquette community often rallies to Be The Difference. Alumni from the Marquette Club of Des Moines, Iowa, along with some potential future Golden Eagles, brought their hands and hearts to the local nonprofit Meals from the Heartland last November. Together, they assembled hundreds of food boxes that ultimately would feed children in need from across Iowa, the U.S. and abroad. “This particular service project is very meaningful for our club because our kids can be hands on, allowing us to install the Jesuit value of cura personalis early,” says Bailey Looffred, Comm ’09, club president. “Seeing others as proud Marquette alumni is central to our club’s mission.”

Andy Salomone, Arts ’06, and Cristina Parks, wed Nov. 13, 2022, at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence, R.I. Alumni in attendance: John Salomone, Dent ’76; Eric Westphal, H Sci ’09, PA ’10; Derek Endsley, Bus Ad ’06; Matt Moulton, Arts ’08; Brian Scola, Bus Ad ’08; Joe Blanchard, Eng ’09; Matt Lembach, Eng ’09;MOVE O’Malley, Bus Ad ’08; Jonathan Bateman, Arts ’08; Law ’10; Ash ley (Gaughan) Bateman, H Sci ’06; Grad ’10; and Sam Levine, Arts ’11.

Jenna L. Kashy, Comm ’09, published her second book about Milwaukee. Milwau kee Scavenger features 160 clues about points of interest and hidden gems in the city.

Jacquelyn (Richmond) Elder, Bus Ad ’10, started her own consulting business, ZioSolutions, which is geared toward project management and process improvements through incorporation in software.

Andrew Schueler, Arts ’10, and Caitlin (Ebert) Schueler, Nurs ’10; son Zachary born Dec. 27, 2021. He joins big brother Auggie.


Jamie (Mочек) Peterson, Nurs ’11; Grad ’15, and Nick Peterson, wed June 25, 2022. Members of the wedding party and guest attendees included several Marquette alumni.


John Basich, Arts ’13, and Marie (Frederickson) Basich, Ed ’14; son John-Jack; born Nov. 12, 2022.


Rubak Newman, Arts ’13, and Ryan Vincent, Bus Ad ’13, Grad ’14, wed Sept. 30, 2022, in Door County, Wis., surrounded by many Marquette friends and family.


Aaron Early-Ladesena, Eng ’14, was unanimously elected to serve on the Steward School Diversity and Inclusion Council. He was also selected to serve on the CARITAS Junior Board in Richmond, Va.

Dayton Howell, Bus Ad ’14, continues his career with J.P. Morgan Private Bank after moving back to Milwaukee.

Greg Masucci went from Realtor to farmer employing adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

BY TRACY STAEDTER

Greg Masucci, Bus Ad ’14, and his wife, Maya, always thought they’d raise their family in Washington, D.C., where Greg worked as a real estate agent. But a few years after their eldest son, Maximus, was diagnosed with severe autism and lost his ability to speak, they traded the city for 25 acres in rural Virginia.

That was 2014, when Maximus was 8 years old and their daughter Delilah was 5. Two years later, they launched A Farm Less Ordinary, a nonprofit that employs adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Masucci received the Good Neighbor Award from Realtors for his efforts.

In West Allis, Katarina is a Ph.D. candidate in biomedical engineering at Marquette University. She met in biology class with Andrew Szyman, Bus Ad ’17, who was a student in Wisconsin.

Matthew Serafin, Comm ’12, was named a regional 50 Under 40 recipient by the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry outside Chicago.

Matthew Serafin, Comm ’12, received the Good Neighbor Award from the Wisconsin Crime Victims Council.

Matthew Serafin, Comm ’12, and Dominic O’Leary, Arts ’13, met in August 2011 and have two sons, Owen and William.

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Although Maximus has limited motor skills that keep him from farm work, he’s learned a valuable lesson: “Be nimble. If you can adapt, you can still flourish,” says Masucci.

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LET’S CELEBRATE THESE ALUMNI MILESTONES

Send your photo of the happy couple or new addition to your family. We’ll share as many as possible here.

1 Margot, daughter of Brittany (Boncuore), Arts ’15, and Joel Haberkorn, Eng ’15; 2 Kealey (Welch), Eng ’15, and Kurt Wagner, Eng ’15; 3 Rebekah (Brennan), Arts ’14, and Ryan Vincent, Bus Ad ’14; 4 Jordan, son of Megan (Palerikwicz), Nurs ’12, and Scott Luke, Bus Ad ’12; 5 Quinn, son of Elise (Stehr), Nurs ’12, and Steven Reynolds, Bus Ad ’13, with big brother Jack; 6 Kathleen Shewan, Arts ’16, Grad ’19, and Ben Lanh, Arts ’18, 7 Emily (Wells), Arts ’19, and Christopher Peracane; 8 Juliana (Herritz), Ed ’17, and Ryan Martin, Bus Ad ’18; 9 Joseph, son of Mike, Arts ’19, and Melissa Gangrose, 10 Rebecca Tripp, Comm ’19, and Brian Corbett, Comm ’19; 11 Halle (Cairo), Arts ’18, and Andrew Mikal, Arts ’18; 12 Kallie (Ginna), Bus Ad ’18, and John Teich, Eng ’17; 13 Kate (Christensen), Eng ’21, and Brendan Osbello, Eng ’20; 14 Kallie, daughter of Kathryn (C’Connor), Ed ’14, and Kevin Konkle; 15 Jean (Grenier), Arts ’69, and Nicholas Supinski (50 years); 16 Kaitlin (Rex), Bus Ad ’12, and Kaelyn Maluf (50 years); 17 Peter, son of Jen, Bus Ad ’12, and Kaelyn Maluf; 18 Lisa (Trefz), Eng ’10, and Kevin Gallatin, Arts ’10 (50 years), 19 Sebastian, son of Abby (Mikulski), H Sci ’15, and Ryan Inawat, Eng ’15; 20 Gail (Grenier), Arts ’72, and Mike Swart, Bus Ad ’72 (50 years); 21 Elliott, son of Diana (Grenier), Bus Ad ’72, and Andrew Rusch; 22 Megan (Fagalde), Med Sci ’17, and Eric Balle, Med Sci ’17; 23 Matthew, son of Megan (Heinonen), Nurs ’17, and James Painter, Law ’14; 24 Noelle, son of Jennifer (Kolodziej), Comm ’16, and Brian Steen, with big sister Maurice, 25 Kallie (Keller), Grad ’17, and Dominick O’Leary, Arts ’17; 26 Madeline, son of Kathleen (Bayh), Eng ’17, and Tim Paragon, Eng ’12; 27 Olivia, daughter of Lauren (Jorgenson), Eng ’12, and Brian Bartow, with big sisters Quinn, Emma and Addison.

This gallery is a platform for members of the Marquette community to share news of their milestones with fellow alumni. To submit your image, visit classnotes.marquette.edu/submit.
Just when law student Grace D’Souza thought she’d competitive rowing behind her, she was called back to the water.

**ALL OARS IN**

Two weeks after her first law school job at Marquette in September 2022, I got a call from Sean Hall, one of the coaches of U.S. Rowing’s women’s lightweight team saying there was an open seat for the World Championships in Prague. If I wanted it, I needed to be at the training center in Princeton, New Jersey, the next day. I said “yes.” It was the culmination of years of competitive rowing extending from high school into college at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and on to the 2021 World Championships in the “under 23” category. I recognized the hunger to stay connected to rowing.

I’d row on the Milwaukee River. The sun might be coming up. It’d be quiet, a moment for reflection. If I wanted it, I needed to be at the training center in Princeton, New Jersey, the next day. I recognized the hunger to stay connected to rowing.

**IN MEMORIAM**

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<td>David L. Andrew, Eng ’60; John F. Buxee, Bus Ad ’60; Bernard W. Daley, Bus Ad ’60; Joan M. (Shihel) Diederich, Sp ’61, Grad ’61, Mary J. (Mittelotte) Gerske, Med Tech ’61, Clifton J. Hackett, Dent ’60; Ronald D. Herlau, Bus Ad ’60; Paul Letourneau, Arts ’60, Gary E. Lynn, Arts ’60, Mary L. (Wierig) Marz, Sp ’60; Mary J. (Kohlen) Mueller, Bus Ad ’60, Frances M. (Peacock) Skillin, Sp ’60; James K. Pohls, Bus Ad ’60; John S. Rutt, Eng ’60; James M. West, Eng ’60; Philip A. Wisenvezlo, Arts ’60, Grad ’60, Ellen R. (Aitken) Wright, Arts ’60; Robert T. Balle, Arts ’51; Don A. Bollemeier, Med ’51, Ernst L. Cody, Eng ’60; Sr. Mary G. Coslin, Grad ’60; Ronald D. Batista, Ent ’60, Mary Ann (Morrison) Dettmann, PT ’60, Michael J. Doyle, Bus Ad ’64, Lee M. Dale, Flight, Arts ’64; Ola J. (Ring) Gannon, Arts ’64, Richard T. Maczk, Bus Ad ’64; Patricia E. Klein, Grad ’64, Joyce M. (Hansen) Kuehn, Arts ’64; William C. Lawrey, Dent ’64; Karl F. Leinfelder, Dent ’64, Grad ’62, Frank F. McBride, Med ’61, Peter G. Moncher, Arts ’62, Gerald P. Nett, Bus Ad ’60, John E. Post, Bus Ad ’60, Herbert T. Roedl, Eng ’60, John A. Bunte, Bus Ad ’64; George M. Shellow, Bus Ad ’64</td>
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of McCormick have joined past adventures, albeit briefly — on the summit of the highest peak in New England last August, when former McCormick Hall roommates and neighbors (left to right) John Beliveau, Eng '83, Tom Magee, Arts '82, and Tim Breen, Eng '83, got together to hike the 20-mile Presidential Traverse of the Appalachian Trail.

Despite 45 mph winds at the top of Mount Washington, notorious for its extreme conditions, the trio successfully unfurled the flag. Additional friends from the sixth floor of McCormick have joined past adventures including a Grand Canyon descent, and more are expected for the next one in August.

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AWAY WE GO

The Marquette flag made an appearance — albeit briefly — on the summit of the highest peak in New England last August, when former McCormick Hall roommates and neighbors (left to right) John Beliveau, Eng '83, Tom Magee, Arts '82, and Tim Breen, Eng '83, got together to hike the 20-mile Presidential Traverse of the Appalachian Trail. Despite 45 mph winds at the top of Mount Washington, notorious for its extreme conditions, the trio successfully unfurled the flag. Additional friends from the sixth floor of McCormick have joined past adventures including a Grand Canyon descent, and more are expected for the next one in August.
Opening new doors

Students are exploring new opportunities to elevate their success thanks to philanthropic partners like Wintrust — the university’s commercial banking partner and proud supporter of scholarship, community and innovative learning spaces like the Wintrust Gallery in Marquette’s new Dr. E. J. and Margaret O’Brien Hall.

PAUSE TO REFLECT

News Innovator
Karen Lincoln Michel, Grad ‘89, Hon ’23
President, ICT, a division of Indi/ Public Media

In this time when so many news organizations are shrinking or shuttering, the one led by Karen Lincoln Michel is bucking the trend. Since 2020, when the former Madison Magazine publisher joined ICT, a nonprofit news platform serving Indigenous communities, she has not only kept the organization (formerly Indian Country Today) in the black through effective fundraising but was also at the helm when ICT launched its weekly video newscast. And with backing from the American Journalism Project and others, Michel, a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, is leading a rapid expansion as ICT grows from two to nine U.S. bureaus. — LOUISA KAMPS

What have your leadership experiences in media taught you about managing through today’s challenging days? We are living in a very interesting time. We’ve seen newspapers and other news outlets diminish, and some have gone away. There’s a lot of disruption. But as a nonprofit, we’ve discovered there are different business models out there. Now is the time to find new solutions. It’s a great time for creativity and entrepreneurship.

How did your time at Marquette shape your worldview? The fact that the American Journalism Project asked us to dream big, as we thought about how to cover more Indigenous communities, was not a stretch for me because that’s the kind of vision Marquette educators encouraged us to think about for our futures. The emphasis on faith and serving something greater than yourself also really aligned with the kind of person, and the kind of professional, I wanted to be. And the number of friends and colleagues that I keep in touch with from Marquette says a lot about the institution.

What is your proudest accomplishment? So often in mainstream news, our communities are ignored or overlooked. And sometimes when they are covered, it is inaccurate or a stereotypical portrait of Native Americans. So, to be able to work with an organization where all the journalists are Indigenous, and we cover Indigenous communities, is a real blessing.

You’re staffing up quickly at ICT. What’s your main message for your new reporters starting their careers? It’s so important for us to tell our own stories. For too long, other people have told our stories, but no one knows our communities better than we do. All the complexities, the different nuances — we can articulate that better than anyone.
Come home to Marquette.

Whether you graduated five years ago or 60, we welcome you home to reconnect and reminisce with classmates and to enjoy unforgettable events — from campus tours, a block party and Marquee Night with live music to our Golden Jubilee celebration, Mass and much more.