Marian University Celebrates 79th Commencement

We had 686 graduates in the Class of 2016. Congratulations, graduates!
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On the Cover
Photo by K.C. Goshert
Carl Lecher, Ph.D. '97, the Anthony J. Kriech Endowed Chair of Chemistry, teaching organic chemistry in Marian Hall.

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Opinions expressed in the Marian University Magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of Marian University or the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana.

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

What a year it has been at Marian University! In my 15 years of service to this incredible university, I cannot help but feel honored and humbled by all that has been accomplished. Our students are beacons of light for the future of this city and country. Our alumni—beneficiaries of exceedingly dedicated and talented faculty and staff at Marian University—edify us daily through their professions and service to others and through the magnanimous commitment of time, talent, and treasure they invest in their fellow Knights.

Student-athletes were particularly bright lights through their stellar accomplishments this past year. Our football team earned their second national championship in December, our women's basketball team earned their first national title in March, our illustrious cycling team earned their 34th national title in May, and Taylor Killings earned the university's first and second national championships in track and field. The success of our athletic programs, including the exceptionally high GPAs of our student-athletes and a record number of Academic All-Americans, culminated in April with Lou Holtz speaking at the Clayton Family Circle of Honor and M-Club Wall of Fame Induction Dinner where more than 900 alumni, student-athletes, and friends gathered at Bankers Life Fieldhouse to celebrate our unprecedented success and raise funds for scholarships.

In this issue of the Marian University Magazine, you'll notice a new look, much like you will notice the changing landscape when visiting campus. We've recently announced two major expansion projects including a new building to house our ever-growing Byrum School of Business and new facilities for student life, learning, and leadership. These exciting new projects are essential to accommodating our tremendous student enrollment growth over the past 15 years, as well as future enrollment growth which we expect to double by 2025. With a record freshmen enrollment this fall, five new graduate programs, and 162 new medical students (our fourth class), we are well on our way to meet and exceed this growth.

It is through generous support from alumni, friends, and parents that we are fulfilling our vision of creating leaders for service to the world. Together, we are making a difference for the students and all whom they will serve as alumni. Look no further than “Establishing a Legacy” (page 10), to see the impact one person can make on shaping the lives of our students and the legacy of our university. Alumni like Tony Kriech ’75 show us what opportunities an engaged alumnus can provide for our students: scholarships, inspiration, and access to internships and jobs.

In a world limited to 142 characters (I’m talking about Twitter, where you can follow me @MUPresidentDan), I was asked to describe #MarianIn5Words. I chose, “faith, academic excellence, community engagement.” We are a community committed to service and academic excellence and we do all things through the great faith established by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana.

Thank you for your commitment to Marian University! Enjoy this issue of the Marian University Magazine.

Daniel J. Elsener
President

P.S. I hope to see you August 27 as the Marian University Community gathers to celebrate our national championships and a big opening of season ten of our football program. Go Knights!
#Marianin5Words

We reached out on Facebook and Twitter, asking you to describe Marian University in five words. Here’s what you had to say.

“Football national champions, Marian Knights”
Jana Dittemore, Parent

“Proud my daughter attends Marian”
Sarah Stephens, Parent

“Women’s basketball wins it all! #nationalchamps”
Heather Melrose, Staff

“Best place for my journey”
Kandra Roembke Sejas ’99, Alumna

“One of my best decisions”
Brandi Lutes Brelage ’97, Alumna

“Thanks, Mom and Dad 😊.”
Casey Jo Dickensheets Wiscons ’06, Alumna

“Great education for my children!”
Beth Elsener
Parent and First Lady of Marian University

“Franciscan values influenced my life.”
Chris Wesselman ’82, Alumna

“Proud of my alma mater”
Megan Beyers ’15, Alumna

“Best place to work ever”
Mattie Horne ’08, Alumna and staff

“Hidden treasure in Indianapolis, Indiana”
Mary Hoffmann O’Brien, Faculty

“Faith, academic excellence, community engagement”
Daniel J. Elsener
Parent and President of Marian University

“#KnightsonBikes”
Zach Bender ’16, Alumnus
Dedicated to developing the next generation of leaders, our faculty work tirelessly to prepare students for the next phase of their lives. Always seeking knowledge, many faculty are engaged in research looking at everything from technology in the classroom to the survival instincts of animals. Here are just a few of the many subjects our faculty are researching.
Move, Adapt, or Die

David Benson, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology and Director of Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab
School of Mathematics and Sciences

For more than 20 years, David Benson, Ph.D., professor of biology, has studied the White-Tailed Ptarmigan, a small grouse bird found in the mountains of the western United States, Canada, and Alaska. He spends his summers studying these birds at Glacier National Park (GNP) in Montana, where he also serves as park ranger, leading hikes and teaching visitors about the beauty and wonder of the park.

Benson sees firsthand the changes taking place and says, “critters have three options in a changing climate: they can move, they can adapt, or they can die.”

In the case of the White-Tailed Ptarmigan, he has found that they do all three. For example, his primary population at Logan Pass in GNP has declined from a breeding population averaging 35 individuals in the late 1950s, to 25 in the 1990s, to less than 15 today. Further, the ptarmigan breeding territories and late summer flocking locations are almost 300 meters upslope from where they were just 15 years before. While Benson has been studying the ptarmigan for 20 years, what he researches and the methods he uses have changed over the years to keep up with the changes in the bird, the environment, and the technology.

For the last few years, Benson has been looking at the hormone levels of birds to determine whether or not warmer temperatures cause them greater stress. He collects this data by collecting fecal matter from ptarmigans to measure certain metabolites that indicate stress levels in the birds, and then comparing the levels of birds to see whether a bird in a warmer microclimate is more stressed out than birds in cooler climates.

This summer, he plans to use radio telemetry to track the birds and find their nests in order to learn more about their ability to adapt—where are they nesting?—and to study breeding success. He’ll be able to leave the collars on for about a year and a half and come back in 2017 to track them once again.

The tracking devices will also help him learn more about their declining population at GNP.

“For the last couple of years, they’ve disappeared by the end of the summer and that hadn’t happened before. I am very interested in where they are and where they are going,” said Benson. “Ptarmigan are the canaries in the coal mine of climate change. From seeing how ptarmigan deal with global warming, we’ll be able to understand how other species will be affected.”

Advocating for Uninsured, Formerly-Fostered Youth

Bonnie Kruszka, DNP, MSN, FNP, NP-C, ENP-BC, RN
Director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice, Family Nurse Practitioner Track
Leighton School of Nursing

At 18 years old, many fostered youth are emancipated and asked to leave their group homes, leaving some with nowhere to go and no family support system. Director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice, Family Nurse Practitioner Track in the Leighton School of Nursing, Bonnie Kruszka, DNP, MSN, FNP, NP-C, ENP-BC, RN, published her research, “It’s Like Pay Or Don’t Have It and Now I’m Doing Without: The Voice of Transitional Uninsured Former Foster Youth,” in 2012. During that year, 24,000 American youth had lost Medicaid entitlements after being discharged from foster care. The work influenced health care policy legislators, health care professionals, state employees, and others.

Kruszka grew passionate about the subject after a patient encounter while working in the emergency room. Her study explored the lived experience of transitional uninsured former foster youth. “All but one of the participants had not received continued Medicaid beyond their 18th birthday, even though Indiana had enacted a state policy in 2005 to extend Medicaid to former foster youth ages 18-21, to which they were entitled,” Kruszka said.

Kruszka was asked to present the findings at the annual Indiana Department of Child Services statewide conference, several non-profit organizations that serve foster youth, local foster youth participating in outreach programs, and attendees at an academic research conference. Her work was also published in the peer-reviewed journal, Policy, Politics, and Nursing Practice and referenced in The Affordable Care Act and Youth Aging Out of Foster Care: New Opportunities and Strategies for Action published by the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C.

Kruszka is currently working on research pertaining to access to mental health care for children and adolescents.
Does Technology Enhance the Classroom?

Jennifer Regelski, Ed.D.
Assistant Professor of Secondary Education
School of Education and Exercise Science

With more than 14 years’ experience in the classroom, Jennifer Regelski, Ed.D., assistant professor of secondary education, has witnessed the evolution of technology. And when she moved to Indianapolis last fall, an opportunity to research the effect of technology in the classroom presented itself. A local school district was implementing a one-to-one technology program where students bring their own device from home to use in the classroom. Regelski reached out to the school district and they agreed to be a part of a case study that explores using technology in the classroom.

“I love educational technology and I want to know if it is helpful in the classroom,” said Regelski. “I wanted to look at how that one-to-one technology impacted the teachers in their classrooms and also if the students were benefitting from having this technology every day.”

Research started at the beginning of the school year with a survey to teachers. Regelski and Deb Gardner, faculty member and data management for the School of Education and Exercise Science, have continued to survey teachers, and will also conduct interviews to talk to teachers about their experiences.

“We’re hoping to see positive growth over the year, but we aren’t sure,” said Regelski. The second component to the research will be looking at the students’ perception. They will be surveying a sample of students and also conducting focus groups where they ask four to five students questions that dig deeper into what they feel is happening with technology.

Regelski hopes to take what they learn from this case study and create some professional development for the teachers.

“Maybe they really want to use the technology, but they’re not quite sure what to do,” said Regelski. “We’re hoping that this could eventually be a nice service project for us by helping teachers out in the field.”

A New Way of Teaching Business

Robert Schuttler
Assistant Professor of Business and Economics
Byrum School of Business

Robert Schuttler, assistant professor of business and economics, is a part of a radical new Byrum School of Business where students develop business plans, work on a real consulting team, run a business, and complete an internship during their four years of college.

His current research compares Marian University’s innovative curriculum with a more traditional business school setting, surveying how each model teaches communication and teamwork.

“Traditionally, business school curriculum is about the same anywhere you go,” said Schuttler. “You’ve got an introduction to business your freshman year, introduction to management your sophomore year, and marketing your junior year. Sprinkled in there is a little bit of accounting, and after four years, you’ve got the basics.”

Marian University’s business curriculum calls for students to take their introductory courses at the beginning of their college career and combines these basic principles with courses where students actually develop business plans.

Schuttler is looking at communication and teamwork in first-semester freshmen, surveying 67 Marian University students and 69 students from a traditional business school.

“I’m taking two pieces: communication and teamwork and I’m asking, ‘do we make a difference here at Marian University?’,” said Schuttler. “The whole thing is an experiment and one that we’re doing very carefully.”

Schuttler gave students a pre- and a post-survey gauging their perception of teamwork and communication before and after their first business classes. But, his research won’t end with this one class of freshmen. He plans to continue surveying students each year, looking to see how the two types of curriculum measure up in learning.

“We are going to use the data to make real changes,” said Schuttler. “This is not simply an academic exercise, it is a working exercise that we have every intention of using to know what is working and to change things that can be improved upon.”

Schuttler also runs the Advantage Health A-Team Program, a student consulting experience where select students are chosen to participate in an interdisciplinary class that focuses on teamwork, project management, critical thinking, and communication.
Working Up a Sweat: Medical Applications of Environmental Physiology

Thad Wilson, Ph.D.
Professor of Physiology
Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Thad Wilson, Ph.D., professor of physiology, wants to know what makes you sweat. Dr. Wilson studies environmental physiology, which looks at how the body interacts with the environment and how certain environmental extremes then impact human health and disease.

How does one study the body’s reaction to an environment you might ask? Look to the sympathetic nervous system, which controls the body’s “fight or flight” response.

Dr. Wilson uses a lab in the Hill-Rom Simulation Center of the Michael A. Evans Center for Health Sciences to create environments that stimulate and test the sympathetic nervous system. For his research on hyperhidrosis, a sweat gland disorder that causes excessive sweating to occur in certain locations on the body, Dr. Wilson will make someone sweat by heating them up in a water suit. In studying the response, he is able to observe some of the disease processes that could take place.

“We know that the sympathetic nervous system, which is part of the nerves that go to the skin, is involved in a fight or flight response. Those responses are overactive in someone with hyperhidrosis,” said Wilson. “So, what we’re trying to do is find ways to blunt either the nerve responses to the amount of neurotransmitters they’re releasing or how the sweat glands respond.”

Dr. Wilson’s research also includes worker health and safety, why people faint in the heat, and cryotherapy—using cold to treat injuries and health conditions. He has co-authored more than 75 peer-reviewed articles, as well as a physiology textbook. Wilson sits on the editorial boards of the Journal of Thermal Biology and the Journal of Applied Physiology and is an associate editor for the Environmental Physiology and Occupational Physiology sections of Medicine & Science in Sport & Exercise, has served on a number of governmental grant review panels, and currently serves on the American Osteopathic Association Council of Research.

Distant Localities: The Rhetorical Contradictions of Local Food Narratives

Anna Zimmerman, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Communication
School of Liberal Arts

At the end of October 2015, Anna Zimmerman, Ph.D., assistant professor of communication, completed her dissertation titled Distant Localities: The Rhetorical Contradictions of Local Food Narratives. The research dissects the local food movement, asking how it can build a better story, be more inclusive, and reach a particular audience. "The local food movement is a social movement that seeks to counter big agribusiness with a locally-based diet. The movement is not centralized in one place, and as a result, takes on different identities in different places. However, the goal of the movement, wherever it is, is to encourage people to eat closer to home," Zimmerman said.

While in the Ph.D. program at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, Zimmerman became interested in questions about food and the rhetoric surrounding food. “I went to this grocery store in the nicer part of town and was really struck by how this was a grocery store, but it was not at all like what I grew up with. It was really fancy and nice, and I thought, ‘Wow, there is something really interesting going on here about how this space is constructed, who it is for, and who isn’t invited to shop here,’” Dr. Zimmerman said.

The research points out that the persuasive campaign for local food comes from well-crafted narratives about individuals’ experiences with eating a locally-based diet. “Understanding how these narratives are constructed and to whom they are written unlocks an important piece of local food’s rhetoric,” Zimmerman said. “Ultimately, what I find is that these narratives that are constructed, while they are attempting to be inclusive of all sorts of audiences, there are all of these ways they are excluding the very people that they want to be a part of their movement.”

Dr. Zimmerman presented her research at the Rhetoric Society of America and the National Communication Association annual conferences.
Since its inception, Marian University has honored an impressive list of local and national sports figures at the annual Clayton Family Circle of Honor and Wall of Fame Induction Dinner. This year was no exception.

The event brought together nearly 1,000 alumni, students, and friends at Bankers Life Fieldhouse to honor Indiana legends Lou Holtz (Hall of Fame football coach and current ESPN analyst) and Bobby “Slick” Leonard (Hall of Fame basketball coach and current Pacers radio color man) and Marian University alumni Kyle Milbee '01 (tennis) and Wesley Hayden '02 (baseball).

Few things are more powerful and inspiring than honoring and celebrating student-athletes of the past and leaders of tomorrow.
1. Lou Holtz spoke to the crowd: confessed to a few run-ins with the nuns, listed the four things everyone needs in life, and even performed a magic trick. Visit Marian University’s YouTube page at www.youtube.com/marianuniversityindy to watch the entire speech.

2. The night attracted a record crowd of nearly 1,000 people to Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

3. Bobby “Slick” Leonard (center) poses with Steve Downing (left), director of athletics at Marian University, and President Daniel J. Elsener.

4. Left to right: Joni Hrisomalos, Dr. Nick Hrisomalos, Mike Weaver, Becky Weaver, and Steve Hoffacker socializing at the event. Mike and Becky Weaver kicked off the event by announcing an exciting gift to Marian University that will allow for greater facilities for all students.

5. Women’s Basketball Coach of the Year Katie Geralds (center) with Joe Kuzmitz ’75 (left) and Nick Shanahan (right)

6. Left to right: Steve Downing, Kyle Milbee ’01, and President Elsener.

7. Left to right: President Elsener, Wesley Hayden ’02, and Steve Downing.

8. 2014 and 2015 Football Coach of the Year Mark Henninger poses with Lou Holtz in front of Marian University’s latest NAIA Football National Championship banner.

9. The national championship women’s basketball team celebrated, and were celebrated, throughout the night.
Throughout the history of Marian University, many have left a legacy, whether that be through the minds they shaped, the programs they started, or the scholarship opportunities they created. One woman—Sr. Mary Rose Stockton, OSF, Ph.D.—dedicated her life to helping students reach their potential and her legacy can be measured by the scientists she developed, the alumni she inspired, and the students who—to this day—receive her endowed scholarship.
Often, endowed scholarships come about in honor, or in memory of, a person who has retired or passed away. In the case of Sr. Mary Rose Stockton, her alumni came to her while she was still teaching and asked how they could show their appreciation for all she did for them. She wanted to help students.

So, along with the letters and pictures from her beloved students, the chalkboard in her classroom featured an ever-changing number. The number told anyone who walked into her classroom how much money had been donated to the scholarship that would eventually be named in her honor. She didn’t need the recognition; she just wanted to ensure that any student—no matter their financial status—had the chance to study chemistry, her passion and life’s work.

The endowed scholarship started with a few hundred dollars in it. Today, it has nearly $500,000. There have been more than 1,700 gifts made in her honor, mostly from alumni she taught. This year, three students are receiving the scholarship that bears her name.

A Woman with a Mission

With a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Cincinnati, Sr. Mary Rose Stockton joined the faculty at Marian University in 1943. She dedicated the next 42 years to teaching chemistry, inspiring students through her own great knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, the subject.

Sitting at a student’s desk, poring over a chemistry journal, is exactly how Tony Kriech ’75 remembers Sr. Mary Rose. When she wasn’t teaching, she was learning about the latest discoveries in chemistry. And her passion was contagious. Kriech, seeking a degree in chemistry, came to Marian University as a freshman in 1971 and quickly came under the wing of Sr. Mary Rose.

“She had an unselfish spirit of caring for her students. Her concern for us was not limited to our education, but also the role we could play in changing the world for the better,” Kriech said. “Sr. Mary Rose asked each of us what we wanted from college and what classes were best to prepare us for a particular career in chemistry and very importantly life.”

Her passion and her connections meant her students had many potential opportunities. She brought in world-renowned scientists to speak to her classes, helped found Indiana’s chapter of Iota Sigma Pi (a national honor society for women in chemistry), and started the university’s student affiliate of the American Chemical Society, organizing trips to their national and regional meetings.

Brilliant herself, she never wrote off a struggling student as long as they were willing to put in the extra effort to understand and succeed in chemistry.

“If you were having problems, she always gave students a chance to recover, always with the idea that if you work hard, you can be successful,” Kriech said.

One of her most valuable gifts to students came after graduation.

“She virtually assured every graduating chemistry student placement in a graduate program or employment through her contacts with alumni,” Kriech said.

He now serves as the vice president of research and development for Heritage Research Group.

For Kriech, he could not have imagined the value that a degree in chemistry from Marian University would provide to him.

“I feel blessed to have had so many opportunities in my career as a result of the help that these teachers, counselors, and scholarships provided me,” Kriech said.

The Impact of Scholarships

Growing up in Indianapolis with four brothers, Kriech planned to become a carpenter after high school. No one in his family had ever attended college. He was a senior at Manual High School on the southside of Indianapolis when a counselor at the school came to him and asked, “Why don’t you go to college?”

“I can’t afford college,” replied Kriech, who graduated in the top 10 of his high school class.

His counselor, Jane Swengel ’43 (a Marian University graduate herself), helped Kriech get a scholarship to Marian University through an Indianapolis Public Schools federal scholarship program.

“I saw directly the benefit of scholarships and how they impact someone’s life,” said Kriech. “It changed my entire life.”

So, he started giving the day he graduated from Marian University in 1975.

“I feel it is my turn to help young people with a desire to change their lives for the better. I believe the Sister Mary Rose Stockton Endowed Scholarship Fund is a great way to help these people reach their true potential,” Kriech said.

Recently, The Heritage Group and one of the founders, Fred and Barbara Fehsenfeld Sr., donated $2 million collectively to establish the Anthony J. Kriech Endowed Chair of Chemistry, in his honor. The chair is held by Carl Lecher, Ph.D. ’97, a graduate of Marian University’s chemistry program and director of the university’s Institute for Green and Sustainable Science.

“Tony Kriech has been a tireless supporter of me, green chemistry, our chemistry program, and our chemistry students,” said Lecher. “Many of our students have gotten their start working for Tony at the Heritage Research Group. It is a great honor to hold this endowed chair named for a true champion of Marian University.”
A Lasting Legacy

When students receive the Sister Mary Rose Stockton Endowed Scholarship, they also receive a sheet that tells them about the woman for whom the scholarship is named. It recounts the many doctors, dentists, and scientists she inspired during her time teaching at Marian University and includes quotes from alumni talking about the tremendous impact she made on their lives.

“If there is one thing students should know about Sr. Mary Rose, it’s that she cared about each of her students and wanted each to succeed in life,” Kriech said. “You can change the world if you want to. It’s up to you.”

Alex Card ’18, a chemistry and biology major, is one of three students who currently receives the Sister Mary Rose Stockton Endowed Scholarship. Card chose chemistry as his major because it fascinates him and he sees it as a great foundation for preparing him for medical school.

“I want to become a doctor because I want to be able to help people every day and be the reason people are able to enjoy their life again,” Card said.

For Card, the scholarship is bringing him closer to his dream of becoming a family physician, alleviating some of the financial burden of college tuition.

He has a message for those who give to scholarships.

“Thank you. Not only are you helping the life of a student, but you are also helping everyone who that student will go on to affect,” Card said.

As Sr. Mary Rose Stockton and Anthony Kriech have taught us, the impact of one person can be quite extraordinary.

To learn more about the endowed scholarships Marian University offers, visit www.marian.edu/endowedscholarships.

To learn more about establishing an endowed scholarship, visit www.marian.edu/give.
Sr. Mary Rose Stockton’s Legacy

by the numbers

1,600
Number of students
Sr. Mary Rose Stockton taught

42
Number of years Sr. Mary Rose Stockton taught at Marian University

1968
The year her endowed scholarship was established

200
Number of chemistry majors she encouraged

1,700
Number of gifts received in her honor

3
Number of students currently receiving the scholarship

Nearly $500,000
Amount of money in the endowed scholarship
IPS, Marian University Partner to Train New Principals

*The Indianapolis Star* | August 4, 2015

Indianapolis Public Schools and Marian University announced Tuesday a new program to train up to 150 educators as school principals and administrators during the next five years.

Funded in part by $250,000 from IPS, 16 teachers already are enrolled in the Academy for Teaching and Learning Leadership for the fall of 2015.

2015 Woman of Influence: Deborah Lawrence

*Indianapolis Business Journal* | November 5, 2015

After working for the state and in private practice with law firms, it didn't take long for Deborah Lawrence to readjust to academia when she joined Marian University in 2002.

She quickly became involved in creating new programs and winning grants, helping the school become more successful and improve its image.

Changes have included the reclamation, restoration and development of the Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab, including the development of a trail system and year-round programming for pre-K-12 students; the merger of the Ruth Lilly Health Education Center with Marian University; and a partnership with St. Vincent Health with a multi-year, multimillion-dollar gift to underwrite the Indy Cycloplex, the Lilly Health Center, and Marian University athletics.

Marian University to Launch Counseling Masters

*Inside INdiana Business* | November 12, 2015

Marian says the competency-based curriculum will include a focus on health of the mind, body and spirit. It will offer two counseling tracks: clinical mental health and school. The program is designed to be completed in two years. It includes 1,000 on-site hours for clinical mental health students and 705 in-school hours for school counseling track students.

Marian Football: From Pipe Dream to Powerhouse in Eight Years

*Indianapolis Business Journal* | December 12, 2015

Meet the president of Marian University. You probably already have if you've gone to a Knights football game, because Elsener works the crowd as if he were running for mayor.

What he sells mostly are ideas, and just over a decade ago, he had a beaut. Start a football program at Marian.

Come Dec. 19, in their ninth season, the Marian Knights will be in Daytona Beach, Florida, playing in their third NAIA national championship game in four years against Southern Oregon. Dan Elsener's baby, all grown up.

Marian Wins Second NAIA Title in Four Years with Victory Over Southern Oregon

*The Indianapolis Star* | December 20, 2015

All week long, Marian All-American wide receiver Krishawn Hogan preached “no turnovers” to his teammates. After all, handing Southern Oregon the ball eight times in last season’s NAIA championship game resulted in a blowout defeat.

This was the first NAIA championship rematch in seven years, since Carroll (Montana) and former member Sioux Falls (South Dakota), the last team to repeat as champion, tangled in 2007 and 2008. No pair of schools have ever faced off three straight seasons.
Local Basketball Legend, First-Time Coach Katie Gearlds Turns Marian into National Contender

Katie Gearlds has quickly turned the Marian Knights into a national contender in her first ever coaching job. In just her third season, the Knights (21-3) are ranked third nationally entering a Wednesday night home game against Bethel.

“This is our year we win the conference,” Gearlds told her team in pregame speech before a recent victory. “This is our year we get to the national tournament. This is our year we get to the Final Four. Alright, let’s do it.”

Marian University Lands New Dean for Medical School

Dr. Donald Sefcik will become dean of the school on March 1 and will also take on the new position of Marian’s vice president of health professions. Sefcik comes from Michigan State University, where he was senior associate dean for MSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Sefcik is familiar with Indiana and Marian. He began his academic career as an adjunct faculty member at Marian College’s Department of Nursing.

American Cyclist Coryn Rivera Riding Fast Road to Rio

Coryn is the one everyone is trying to catch. The dynamic sprinter has become arguably the most decorated cyclist in American history, the winner of an astounding 71 national championships. Her closets back home in Tustin, California, overflow with medals, trophies and other plaudits from triumphs stretching back more than a decade.

She’s also only 22 years old. And just getting started. Rivera’s big goal this year is qualifying for the Rio Olympics, then adding to her extraordinary collection of hardware on the rolling hills of coastal Brazil come August.

Marian University Lands $15M in Donations for New Facilities

Marian University has raised $15 million through several donations that it will use as part of a $30 million plan to build new facilities on its Indianapolis campus, school officials announced Thursday.

The donations include a “major lead gift” from Mike Weaver, president of Whitestown-based Weaver Popcorn Co. Inc., and contributions from Indianapolis-based real estate developer Browning Investments LLC and several individuals, the school said.

“Thanks to Mike and Becky Weaver’s incredible leadership, we are well on the way to raising the $30 million needed to make campus improvements that will attract and retain some of the nation’s next generation of leaders,” Elsener said in written remarks. “Without funding, we simply can’t achieve our mission of developing transformational leaders for service to the world. This is more than a gift to Marian University; it’s an investment in the future leadership of our community.”

Marian Signs 9-Year-Old to Basketball Team

Oni Davenport has a cancerous brain tumor and now an entire crew of college athletes to help him through it.

It’s right there on the basketball team’s roster.

“Oni Davenport: Always”

Oni looked down at the roster and smiled last week, sitting at the same table all athletic recruits signing with Marian University sit. His parents and coach Carson Harris were by his side.
2016 HOME FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

AUGUST 27
Saint Xavier University | 6 p.m. | Home Opener

SEPTEMBER 17
Robert Morris University | 1 p.m. | Band Day

OCTOBER 8
Taylor University | 1 p.m. | Homecoming

OCTOBER 15
Lindenwood University-Belleville | 1 p.m. | Catholic Schools Day and Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Appreciation Day

OCTOBER 29
Concordia University Ann Arbor | 1 p.m. | Hometown Heroes Day

Home games are played at St. Vincent Field. All game times are subject to change.

Knights’ football is an experience. Tailgating, M-Club Hospitality Tent, the Health Plex Sports Club for Kids, and, of course, an exciting brand of college football are all a part of each and every game. Watch NAIA Coach of the Year Mark Henninger lead the Knights back to Daytona for another run at the national championship.

Reserve your season tickets and enjoy a game day experience that’s fun for the entire family.

WWW.MARIAN.EDU/TICKETS
A CLUB SUPPORTING CHAMPIONS

The M-Club is a booster club that supports all Marian University athletics through endowed scholarships and our championship fund.

Our mission is supporting all athletes in the classroom and on their road to a championship. This would not be possible without the generosity of the M-Club members and we thank you for your support of Marian University Knights!

For more information, contact Nichole Ellis, director of athletic development, at nellis@marian.edu or 317.955.6240.

You can also follow us on Twitter @MarianMClub.
2016 NAIA Women’s Basketball National Champions

“It’s special. I told them, ‘We have a team to win a national championship. And at one time we’re 6-3. And then we go on a 17-game winning streak, and then we lose three of our last five games. It’s just all about refocusing and trying to find the right moment to play your best basketball and we did it in the national tournament. And I couldn’t be prouder.”

Katie Gearlds, Head Women’s Basketball Coach

“I came to Marian University and started playing with the greatest group of girls. We liked to emphasize family and always say, ‘win together, lose together.’ And I must admit winning is a lot better than losing.”

Jenna Sullivan ’17, member of Marian University’s 2016 NAIA Women’s Basketball National Championship team

2016 NAIA Men’s and Women’s Track and Field National Champion (60-Meter Hurdles and 110-Meter Hurdles)

“We got better with every day and got our first-time national champion.”

Mike Holman, Head Track and Field Coach

“It feels amazing. I feel like I’ve been waiting for one of these for a long time.”

Taylor Killings ’17, winner of the 2016 60-Meter Hurdles and 110-Meter Hurdles NAIA Track and Field National Championship
What a year it has been for Marian University athletics! From cycling, to football, to women’s basketball, to track and field, the Knights have spent the year earning the title, “national champion.”

With more than one-third of our traditional undergraduate students participating in intercollegiate athletics, we use the field of competition as a laboratory for leadership development. Our scholar-athletes have the integrity, character, and work ethic required for success in athletics, and in their future careers.

2012 and 2015 NAIA Football National Champions

“I couldn’t be happier for our guys. They worked really hard and we worked really hard a year ago and didn’t get to experience this. So I’m just really happy for our guys. This is pretty magical.”

Mark Henninger, Head Football Coach

“Our motto this whole season was ‘Start to Finish’ and that’s exactly what we did. I can’t say thank you enough to Marian University, all of the coaches, and all my teammates who made this possible. It’s an absolutely unforgettable experience for us.”

Alex Wetmore ’16, member of Marian University’s 2012 and 2015 NAIA Football National Championship team

2015 Collegiate Track National Champions
2015 Collegiate Cyclo-Cross National Champions
2015 Collegiate BMX National Champions
2016 Collegiate Road National Champions

“We’ve been able to be very competitive in all five disciplines and that is a result of how the university views cycling as an important sport. They really value these student-athletes and that makes a difference.”

Dean Peterson, Head Cycling Coach

“We go out there and race our hearts out. We want to finish, whether it’s first or last, knowing that we left it all out there. With this being my last race at Marian University, I wanted to give it everything I had.”

Andrew Dillman ’16, member of two Mountain Bike Team Relay National Championship teams and three Cyclocross Team Relay National Championship teams

“When you do the right thing in terms of academics and character development, you do form leaders and leaders win,” President Daniel J. Elsener said.

Live the victory by visiting www.marian.edu/nationalchampions.

Here are the wins we’ve racked up:
Third-year medical student Savahanna Lien first learned about Patch Adams in the seventh grade when she watched the box office hit movie about his life, *Patch Adams*, starring Robin Williams. More than 15 years later, Lien would write “Patch”—as he prefers to be called—to share the news that she would be going to medical school at the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

“This person had literally shaped my identity, but had no idea that I existed. I wrote him a letter, thanking him for what he had done for me—silently and unknowingly—and letting him know how grateful I was to be given the opportunity to study osteopathic medicine,” Lien said.

Not even a week later, Lien opened her mailbox to a hand-written response from Patch, thanking her for her letter and also saying, “If I had to do it all over again, I would have been an osteopath.”

Those words really struck Lien, and from there, an idea was born to bring the famous Patch Adams to the Marian University campus to speak about his experiences as a doctor and “The Joy of Caring.”

Patch Adams spoke to a completely packed Marian University Theatre on March 28, 2016.

His lecture was as unconventional as the way he dressed. And his zest for life and care for people were on clear display.

Lien had the great honor of introducing him to the crowd of 500 and had these words for her fellow classmates, “Medical school is hard. And we’re broken down and we’re stressed, and we’re competitive. We’re isolated and under a lot of pressure, especially now, as many of us study for boards. Now, more than ever, we need to be reminded of what it means to put the joy back in caring. And lucky for us, we have an expert to help us do that.”

During his lecture, Patch made the audience think, laugh, and even cry a little. He spoke of his years immediately following medical school when he and fellow doctors opened a free clinic; showed videos from his trips abroad with the Gesundheit Institute, where they travel to countries decimated by war, poverty, and/or natural disasters to bring medical care and laughter; and told medical students how to find and keep the joy in caring.

**Here are a few tidbits of wisdom gleaned from his lecture.**

**Your patients are your friends.**
I know that most of all the joy I get from care is because my patients are my friends. That is the relationship I would like to assume with whoever I meet. It is the most breathtaking part of life—the relationships and love of other people.

**When you are caring, you are being the highest calling of your faith.**
Your spiritual life is at work. The actual act of loving another human being is the job of your spiritual life. If you know Jesus, you know that is what He wants you to do. Be Him.

**Here’s the trick, twinkling eyes and a smile on your face.**
It’s irresistibly connective. I’m astounded at how open people will be if they feel you care. It is there for you in every moment of your life.

**The thrill is to care.**
You have to decide when you become an osteopath, ‘am I going to care or is it just a job?’ In medicine, you are caring for an individual person and their family and that first time a family communicates a level of thanks—that is for you, for your care, and you can stash it for the rest of your life.

**Thinking may just be your best friend.**
It’s not how you answer questions on tests, it’s how you handle your life. What a gift it is that, instead of complaining and feeling that there are problems, you can make solutions.

**You are a hero.**
That you dare to walk in the room of a patient and tell them they have stage four cancer, or that their child is dead, or that their child is a heroin addict. That you dare to go there. Whether you are a nurse, or a nurse’s aide, or a doctor of any kind. That you are choosing to walk toward suffering. You are a hero. You’re allowed to feel that. It’s real. If you don’t know that you’re a hero to your patients, you’re not spending enough time with them.

The night served as a reminder to medical students and doctors alike, to not lose perspective and to find the joy in caring.

“I found a mentor and a human who I wanted to emulate. Not just as a physician, but as a person,” Lien said. “Fifteen years ago, Dr. Patch Adams changed my mind on what a physician is and it’s because of what I learned from him that I am committed to being an imperfect person who loves too much, who laughs too much, and becomes too emotionally attached to most things and people in my life.”

For more information about Patch Adams and the Gesundheit Institute, visit [www.patchadams.com](http://www.patchadams.com).
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This issue of the Marian University Magazine really resonates with me, having graduated with a degree in math in 1986.

I joined Marian University’s staff in August of 2013. For two years, I worked in the Office of Institutional Advancement, coordinating donor communications, overseeing the database and gift processing, helping coordinate events, and acting as liaison between our staff and other departments on campus. It has been so gratifying to see alumni and Marian University friends at events, both on and off campus, and to hear their stories.

This semester, I had the opportunity to teach an undergraduate personal finance class, and what a gift that was. It was the first time since I’d been back that I had a significant opportunity to interact with the students we serve. Our students are remarkable. They are dedicated, curious, driven, and two of my favorite qualities—respectful and polite!

After I graduated, when I’d meet people and mention where I went to school, I’d always add, “It’s across the street from the velodrome,” as though that was part of the name of Marian College. Nowadays, it’s remarkable to me the difference in people’s reactions. “Marian University is doing amazing things!” is the tone of the majority of comments.

Marian University has come such a long way in the, ahem, 30 years since I graduated. Truth is, we’ve come a long way in the last 10 years. The last five years, for that matter! Our graduates’ achievements are so impressive, not just in STEHM, but in all disciplines. From raising children to teaching tomorrow’s leaders to running companies, Marian University alumni are changing the world.

It comes up in many conversations that there is “just something about Marian University alumni.” I’d say that applies to our entire community—alumni, students, faculty, staff, and parents. We are drawn to one another. It’s true. Hopefully, you feel a sense of pride for what Marian University has accomplished, both in the lives of her students and alumni, and in the school itself.

As I transition into the role of director of alumni and parent engagement, I ask you for your support. What does that mean? Whether you are alumni, friends, or parents, get involved. Attend Homecoming on October 6-8, especially if your class is celebrating a reunion. Come tour campus. Judge a student competition. Attend a play or sporting event. Help our students through The Exchange by reviewing resumes, participating in mock interviews, or offering an internship to a student or a job to a graduate. Refer a high school student to campus. Talk to your friends and family about your experience at Marian University.

I look forward to seeing you on campus and hearing your stories. I also look forward to working with you to aid our current students as they move toward graduation and beyond. If you plan to be on campus or would like to visit, let me know. I would love the chance to see you and show you around!

Cathy Watt Siler ’86
Director of Alumni and Parent Engagement

QUESTIONS? Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@marian.edu or 317.955.6546.
OCTOBER 6-9
JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF FUN!

Thursday, October 6
Thirsty Thursday sponsored by Central Indiana Chapter of Alumni Association, Blind Owl Brewery

Friday, October 7
Community Cookout, TBD

Saturday, October 8
Rosary Walk, Blessed Mother Mary Shrine and Rosary Walk
Campus Tours, Alumni Hall
Alumni Tailgating, Tailgate Village, Allen Whitehill Clowes Amphitheater and Mother Theresa Hackelmeier Memorial Library Parking Lots
Homecoming Football Game vs. Taylor University, St. Vincent Field
Mass, Marian Hall, Bishop Chartrand Memorial Chapel
All-Alumni Reception, Alumni Hall
Reunion Dinners, various locations

REGISTER TODAY!

For more information:
Visit       www.marian.edu/homecoming
Email      alumni@marian.edu

*If your class year is not included and you are interested in helping plan your reunion, please contact Cathy Siler, director of alumni and parent engagement, at csiler@marian.edu or at 317.955.6241.
1. Glue Nomadic Knightro to poster board or construction paper for a little extra heft.
2. Cut out Nomadic Knightro.
3. Snap a photo of Nomadic Knightro on a trip, at a Marian University event, or anywhere fun you go.
4. Post your photo on Facebook, Twitter, and/or Instagram with the hashtag #NomadicKnightro or send the photos to kbradley@marian.edu.

You can also find Nomadic Knightro online at www.marian.edu/knightro.

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## NOMADIC KNIGHTRO TRAVELS...

1. Knightro tagged along to Favaisos, Portugal on April 20, 2015 with some Marian University alumni on a Viking Cruise on the Douro River through Portugal. (Left to right: Judy Davidson ’65, Bill Davidson ’65, Knightro, a local musician, Nola Gregg ’70, and Tom Gregg.

2. Dr. Bob Moseman ’63, Gaye Moseman, Mary Ellen Benedetto ’63 Phillips, and Dr. Dick Phillips ’63 visited Cartagena, Columbia while on their 10-day Panama Canal cruise in January 2016.

3. Vic Hermann ’68 snapped a shot with Knightro at the Rock of Gibraltar in October 2015.
Did you get an exciting new job or promotion? Make a career change? Want to show the newest member of your family to the Marian University community? Did your wedding party or reception include Marian University alumni? If so, let us know by emailing alumni@marian.edu. It could be included in the next issue of the Marian University Magazine.

1946
Mary Kathryn Klaiber McManis turned 90 on February 25, 2016. Happy birthday from Marian University!

1958
David Foley and Nancy Stipher Foley ’66, Odette and Frank Sekula ’68, and Colleen Sharer ’68 and Steven Aichle had dinner with President and Mrs. Elsener in California last year.

David Foley and Nancy Stipher Foley ’66 stopped by the new nativity sculpture at Alumni Hall while they were in town from San Diego, California.

Below: Foley, Elsener, Sekula, Sharer, and Aichle dinner in California

Below: David Foley and Nancy Stipher Foley ’66 outside of Alumni Hall

1963
Marie Mastruserio Masters, Heidi Dusbiber Morrow ’05, and Kevin McAnarney ’70 had dinner at Sardi’s with Marian University students on a trip to New York City over Spring Break 2015.

Below: Marie Mastruserio Masters, Heidi Dusbiber Morrow ’05, and Kevin McAnarney ’70

1965
Rita McNelis Heede (great-aunt to Joe), Sheila McNelis (assistant professor of nursing and Joe’s mother), and Joe McNelis ’17 (accounting major) all sport their Knight gear while on vacation in the Isle of Palm, South Carolina, proving that being a Marian University Knight can be “a family tradition!”

Below: Rita McNelis Heede ’65, Sheila McNelis, and Joe McNelis ’17 in South Carolina

1966
Mike Griffin will be inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame for his 41 years of coaching basketball at various levels in Brownsburg, including leading its girls’ basketball team to its only undefeated regular season and state final appearance.

Melanie Sheets has had three book reviews published, including one for The History of Christianity published by National Geographic.

1969
Bob Hammerle was featured in the Indianapolis Business Journal for his career as a lawyer and prolific movie critic. Opinions shared with his college roommates have evolved into Big-Mouth Bob’s Bug Juice Dispensary & Movie Reviews (www.bigmouthbobs.com).

1970
Frank Della-Penna and his spouse, Stephanie Ortoleva, placed flowers of solidarity at the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C. in November 2015, following the terrorist attacks in Paris.

Below: Frank Della-Penna ’05 and Stephanie Ortoleva in Washington, D.C.

1974
Robert Morse wrote a short story called “Encounter in the Wee Hours,” being published in the short story collection, Mythic Indy, available on Amazon.com. Robert has had one-act plays produced in Indiana and Michigan and public readings in New York and Chicago.
1976
Sr. Marjorie Jeanne Niemer, OSF, was honored by the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception with the Virtue, Honor, and Education Award given annually to a teacher who has made a meaningful spiritual and educational impact upon alumni of the academy.

1982
Beth Fox Wilhem retired from public education after 33 years and 26 years in the Plainfield school system. She is now working for the Ruth Lilly Health Education Center at Marian University as an on-call health educator.

1988
Debi Erven works as a vascular access technician for the May Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

1990
Brenda Campbell is the new director of the Tyson Library in Versailles, Indiana.

1991
Matt Mitchell became the Noblesville assistant fire chief on May 25, 2015.

1993
Jordi Disler was promoted to Parkview LaGrange Hospital president in February 2016.

1995
Dustin Howard has opened a law office in Salem, Indiana.

Brian Sweany’s latest book Buy the Ticket, Take the Ride was released April 12, 2016. The novel is roman à clef rooted in Brian Sweany’s own tragicomic life, from his childhood growing up in central and southern Indiana to his early adult years working in New York publishing.

1996
Scott Bruns has been named the Indianapolis Office Managing Partner of Ernst & Young.

1998
In December, Michelle Study-Campbell celebrated one year as chief executive officer of the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana. Study-Campbell credits a youth-tour trip she took while attending Marian University with the path that led to her current position.

2001
Anne Elsener, Ph.D., and Ben Hilby welcomed Mark Elsener Hilby on September 28, 2015.

Below: Mark Elsener Hilby

2002
Adairius Gardner is now director of government affairs for Indiana University Health.

2004
Joe Nierman was elected to the Indiana Youth Institute’s board of directors. Nierman also serves as vice president of the executive committee for Trusted Mentors and serves on Byrum School of Business’ Board of Visitors at Marian University.

“ used for editing: "Buy the Ticket, Take the Ride," photography from the book Buy the Ticket, Take the Ride, by Brian Sweany ’95.

Left: Buy the Ticket, Take the Ride, by Brian Sweany ’95.
2005

Amanda Blandford married Johannes Kleiner on May 30, 2015 in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Atlanta, Georgia. The reception was at Unicoi State Park in Helen, Georgia. Two other Marian University graduates, Adrienne Freiburger Bashore and Kristine Madura, were attendants at the wedding.

2006

Jennifer Briggs was named chief operating officer of the Indiana CPA Society in 2015. She also serves as senior vice president for the same organization.

2007

Kiley Watson and Dan Kallenberger were married on October 24, 2015 at Centenary United Methodist Church in Lebanon, Indiana.

2008

The Indiana Dental Association awarded Amanda Miller, DDS with the 2015 Rising Star Award. The award is to recognize a young dentist who has been practicing for 10 years or less and demonstrates outstanding leadership abilities and initiative.

2010

Jessica Davis is now director of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis Office of Sustainability. Read more about Jessica in the End Note on page 29.

 Above: Left to right are Kristine Madura ’05, Amber Blandford ’05, and Adrienne Freiburger Bashore at Blandford’s wedding.

Below: The Kallenberger Wedding was filled with Marian University alumni. Left to right are Ulen LaLand ’12, Alecia Kissel ’15, Monique Ware ’08, Luann Brames ’98, Marie Truesdell Reymore (former professor at Marian University), Dan Kallenberger ’07, Kiley Kallenberger ’07, James Wilson ’08, Stephanie Horan Newton ’07, Maria Elsener Mayer ’08, Emily Garrard ’07, and Joey Newton ’07.
Remember Marian University in a deferred gift and truly leave a legacy. Consider the following options:

- Make a bequest through your will
- Name Marian University as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy
- Name Marian University as a beneficiary of your 401k, 403b, or IRA

Deferred gifts can be used to endow scholarships or benefit a program that is meaningful to you, and donors who make a deferred gift become members of the Heritage of St. Francis Society.

To talk further about a deferred gift, or to request more information, please contact:

**John Finke**
Vice President of the Office for Institutional Advancement
jfinke@marian.edu
317.955.6202
Responsible Stewardship in Action

From the Savannas of South Africa to the Campuses of Indianapolis, Jessica Davis ’10 is Out to Save the Planet

During her first few years as an undergraduate at Marian University, Jessica Davis ‘10 probably couldn’t tell you what sustainability was. Then, Carl Lecher, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, introduced her to the Institute for Green and Sustainable Science (IGSS) and the rest is history...well, kind of.

Davis spent her last few years at Marian University working with IGSS, but ultimately wanted to become a veterinarian. After graduating, she completed one year at Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine and headed off to South Africa for an internship transporting wild game including rhinos, zebras, and lions near Kruger National Park. She loved it, but the 24-hour flight back to the United States had her contemplating her future.

“I thought, ‘yes, the work is really cool, but am I really solving the problem?’ Medicine isn’t the ultimate solution to the problems that wildlife face. The solution is a healthy ecosystem,” Davis said. “I decided that I couldn’t spend three more years and $90,000 to graduate and not be able to fix the problem.”

She went on to receive her master’s degree in biology from the University of Dayton and spent her summers working for IGSS. Today, Davis serves as director of sustainability at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and she has a few things to teach us about being sustainable, working in the science, technology, engineering, health, and mathematics (STEHM) field, and saving the planet.

Q & A WITH JESSICA DAVIS

Q: What is sustainability? How can we make a difference?
A: The United Nations defines sustainability as, “Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Fundamentally, sustainability is intergenerational justice; it’s caring just as much about people who aren’t even an idea yet, as we do about ourselves by changing the way we live now. If we keep demanding resources at our current rate, it will have a profound negative impact on future generations, and they will be forced to bear the cost of our choices. In order to change our current behavior to sustainable behavior, it has to include three sectors: environment, society, and economy. A sustainable decision is one that is environmentally friendly, socially equitable, and economically viable.

Sustainability is not hard to do. It’s a series of very small decisions that collectively have a large impact. I choose to recycle at home. I choose to support local businesses over big box stores. I choose to purchase energy efficient appliances. I choose to minimize my consumption. I choose to pay an extra $1 a month to have 100 percent renewable energy power my apartment. I choose to purchase products from companies that are environmentally responsible and treat people fairly. Are these choices a little extra work? Yes, but the benefits associated with them far outweigh the financial, environmental, and social cost that we all pay for the status quo.

Q: What’s does it mean to be a director of sustainability?
A: What I like about my job is that it is the pursuit of ultimate solutions; it’s not the pursuit of proximate ones. Sustainability is the ultimate solution to the biggest global problems we have today—climate change, hunger, the energy crisis, water scarcity, poverty, antibiotic resistance, natural resource depletion, injustice, the sixth great extinction. As sustainability director of a university, it’s my job to infuse sustainability into our campus culture. This manifests itself in many ways and spans the campus from operations to academics. Operationally, it’s changing what we buy and how we buy it; it’s altering the physical infrastructure to be more energy efficient; it’s modifying how we manage the waste we create; and it’s reducing our campus carbon footprint. Academically, it’s injecting sustainability into the curriculum so every student has the opportunity to learn how sustainability applies to their field of study; it’s creating opportunities for students to become engaged in sustainability research; and it’s developing ways to involve students in a sustainable campus life. Ultimately, we hope that by infusing the campus culture with sustainability, we can change people’s behavior. If we can engage someone enough in an issue to make them think about it and change the way they act, then that’s a success.

Q: What advice would you give your fellow Knights pursuing a career in STEHM?
A: Be curious, never stop learning, and always question. Never accept things at face value. Demand evidence. Demand data. That is something that would be valuable to all of us, no matter the field. And if someone tells you they know everything about a topic, you can be certain they do not. To quote Charles Darwin, “Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge.”

Q: How can people learn more about sustainability?
A: There are many ways to learn about sustainability. There are great resources available online. If you’re a parent, ask your kid! Most children learn about being sustainable in school and are the ones teaching their parents. Reach out to a sustainability professional; we’re very passionate about our field, and we love talking about it, especially with folks who are new to the topic. If you are interested in the Catholic theological perspective on it, I recommend reading Pope Francis’ encyclical, Laudato Si’. It will make you say, “I need to change the way I’m living.”
Byrum School of Business

Schmidt Associates’ architectural rendering of the proposed new home of the Byrum School of Business, opening December 2017.