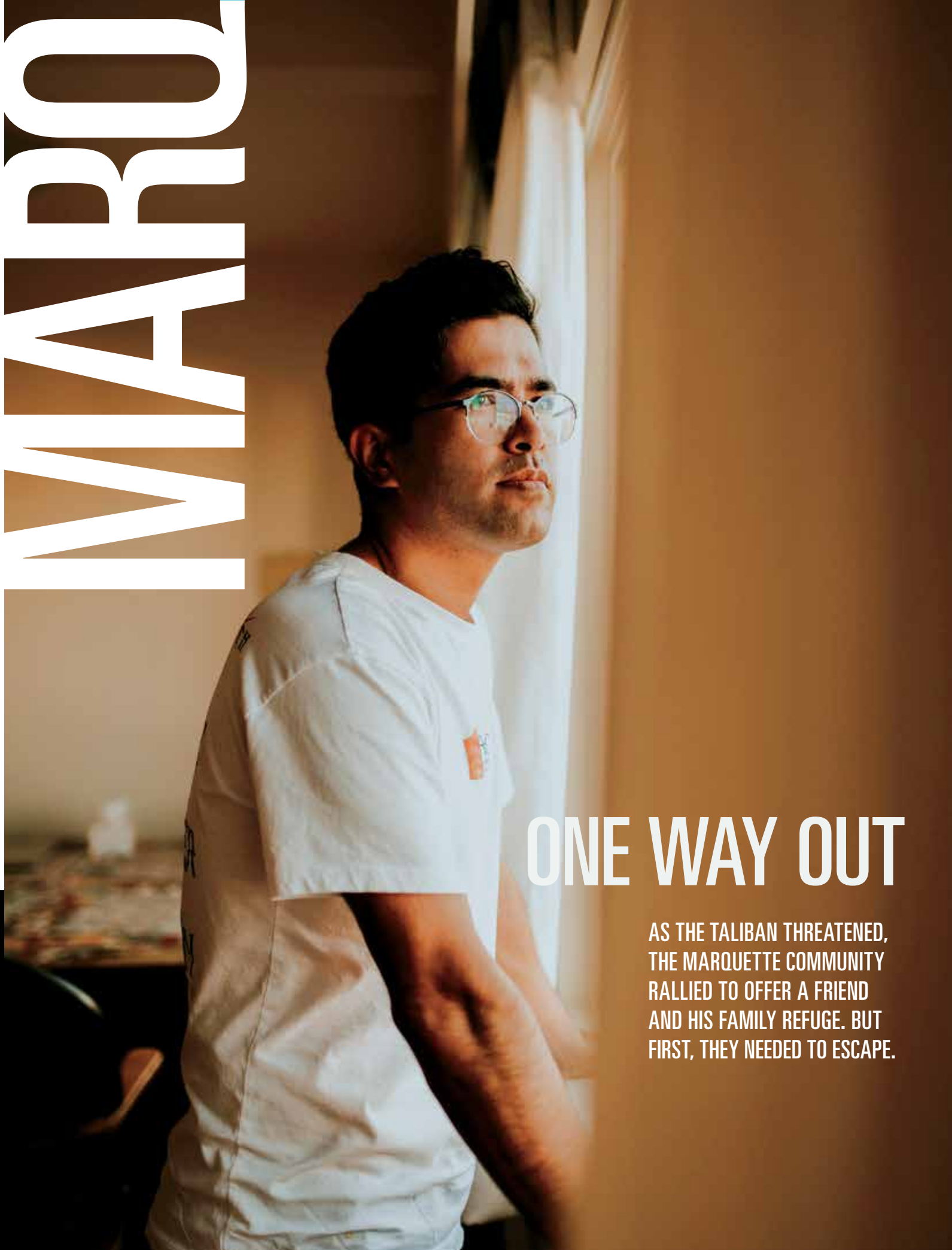


# WARBO

## ONE WAY OUT

AS THE TALIBAN THREATENED, THE MARQUETTE COMMUNITY RALLIED TO OFFER A FRIEND AND HIS FAMILY REFUGE. BUT FIRST, THEY NEEDED TO ESCAPE.

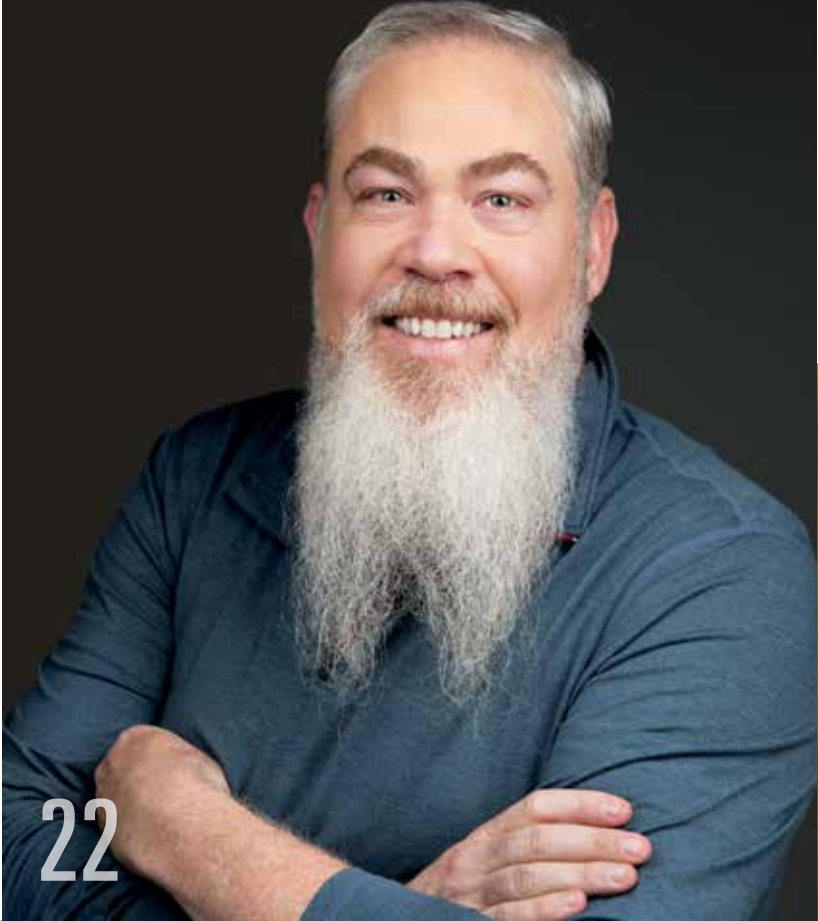


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LEFT  
Alumnus Brendan Gramer's ad about improving the world for people with disabilities has 20 million views.  
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ABOVE  
See what's buzzing around the recently renovated St. Joan of Arc Chapel and its grounds.  
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LEFT  
Emily Raclaw, director of On Your Marq, draws on her personal experience with neurodivergence to support students on the spectrum.  
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“As a Catholic theologian, I can say that the value of our human life ... is not in what we do but in who we are, and it is easier to see that when we slow down.

DR. CONOR KELLY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY AND AUTHOR OF *THE FULLNESS OF FREE TIME: A THEOLOGICAL ACCOUNT OF LEISURE AND RECREATION IN THE MORAL LIFE.*

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

# SEEN + HEARD



## LEADING EDGE

President Michael R. Lovell and Lora Strigens, vice president for planning and facilities management, tour the fast-rising home of Marquette Business, Dr. E.J. and Margaret O'Brien Hall. It will offer prime views of West Town Square and two just-announced campus projects (see pages 7 and 12).



## FINDING BALANCE

As president of the logrolling club, one of the newest club sports on campus, junior Tess Stumvoll tells new members like sophomore Jenna Kozal (right) to never get frustrated and always keep their feet moving.



## ALIVE WITH THE SPIRIT AGAIN

After a monthslong renovation, hundreds came to worship and celebrate the return of Tuesday Night Mass to Marquette's beloved — and refurbished — St. Joan of Arc Chapel.

**Editor:** Stephen Filmanowicz

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and 27; Wakil Kohsar, inside front cover (plane) and p. 20; Jesse Lee, pp. 5 (Lemonis) and 30 (Strong); maydays (Getty), p. 10; John Sibilski, inside front cover (Wessels) and pp. 7, 31, 39, 47; Danielle Tait, p. 35; David Watson, pp. 28 and 30 (Troy); Kalida Williams, pp. 1, 26 (top left), 27 (bottom right), and 32

**Illustrators:** © Michael Austin (the iSpot), p. 8

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## PORTRAITS IN INFLUENCE

After retiring as distinguished professor of education, Dr. Howard Fuller (left), Grad '85, participated in *Paying it Forward*, sharing lessons from decades of leadership in civil rights and education. Conversation partner Mike Gousha has also retired as distinguished fellow in law and public policy at the Law School, where he moderated statewide debates, hosted key civic conversations and helped establish the Lubar Center as a valued regional resource. Gousha continues as senior adviser.



OUR MISSION AND VALUES  
CALL US TO LIFT OTHERS.  
**TO GIVE OF OURSELVES.**

*Time to Rise* marks our boldest philanthropic campaign to date, and the Marquette family is stepping up.

For our students, faculty and beyond.  
Join us at [timetorise.marquette.edu](https://timetorise.marquette.edu).

**We are Marquette. And it's time to rise.**

# TIME TO RISE

THE MARQUETTE PROMISE TO BE THE DIFFERENCE



# T

he Ignatian value of *magis* teaches us to do more for the greater glory of God. I am continually impressed by the ways in which our campus community and alumni adopt this value in using their talents to make the world better. Some of my favorite days of the year are when we welcome back our former students whose sound ethics and steadfast commitment to service have greatly impacted or advanced their fields of study and practice.

We celebrate them during Marquette's Alumni National Awards.

By sharing their gifts and expertise, these alumni transform our world in remarkable ways. From developing innovative medical technologies to breaking barriers of race and gender, they demonstrate *magis*. In doing so, they call us all to reconsider what *magis* means in our own lives. Their example raises the bar for everyone in our community and inspires us to do more.

Over the last seven years, and especially as we launched our current *Time to Rise* campaign, I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our alumni and friends to enable Marquette to do more in providing a transformational experience for our students. A recent gift from alumnus



# REACH

Marcus Lemonis exemplifies these values; his investment will launch a student success center that will impact every student on our campus. This game-changing gift will bolster individualized support for our students in all aspects of their lives, enabling them to experience *cura personalis* — care for the whole person — while seeking the *magis* in their own ways. Like so many of our alumni who invest in our students' futures, Marcus is helping us do more in shaping future changemakers who are open to the possibilities of where God is calling them.

Our alumni stories, from their triumphs to their generosity and drive, reflect the Ignatian tradition at the heart of a Marquette education. We are anchored in our commitment to form leaders rooted in Ignatian values who will change the world; the support of those alumni who embody the *magis* and push for greater access, in turn, broadens horizons in every corner of our campus. Moving forward, we must continue to strive for new ways to improve the student experience and achieve an equitable and just community by removing barriers. As was our theme for this year's Mission Week, we must remain Open to Possibility — just like our alumni.

**Dr. Michael R. Lovell**

PRESIDENT



Fans at Fiserv Forum on National Marquette Day thank Marcus Lemonis, Arts '95, for his game-changing gift in support of student success.

## WALK ABOUT

When the pandemic made it impractical to hold office hours, Rev. Ryan Duns, S.J., began inviting students on long walks like this one with undergraduates (from left) Sophie Lynch, Samuel Bel and Genevieve Kulla. It's a fitting way, Duns says, to further a priority of the Society of Jesus: "to accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future."



WHAT'S NEW ON CAMPUS & BEYOND

# MU 360°

MU/360°



## LAW SCHOOL circle of justice

For two decades — through the leadership of Justice Janine Geske, Law '75, Hon Deg '98, distinguished professor of law — Marquette Law School has supported innovative restorative justice initiatives that connect victims with offenders to encourage accountability and heal pain. Now, a \$5 million gift from Louis, Law '66, and Suzanne (Bouquet) Andrew, Sp '66, advances these efforts by establishing the Andrew Center for Restorative Justice to educate students, support research and enhance teaching. Geske, a former justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, will work as the center's inaugural director and lead the search for a permanent one. Restorative justice is a "powerful, peaceful means for addressing conflict," she says, calling establishing this program at Marquette her "dream."



Student Samantha Arellano and her navigator, Brian Troyer

## STUDENT SUCCESS

# firm foundations

With a boost from a vibrant new center, Marquette aims for long-term success by supporting students from the start.

BY GUY FIORITA

In predicting who successfully navigates college — and who falters — the first nine weeks on campus are crucial. To help undergraduates establish firm footings, Marquette's year-old Student Success Initiative reaches students early with tailored resources and in-person navigators who answer questions and make timely referrals.

As a navigator in the program's pilot, Brian Troyer, dean of undergraduate admissions, was assigned 10 first-year students last fall, all of them commuters. In their early meetings with him, students often focused on typical issues such as changing a major. "But over time," Troyer says, "their biggest needs were for socialization and engagement with the Marquette community. The program helps students connect with each other and get a sense of the opportunities that exist at Marquette."

Samantha Arellano, a member of his cohort, had the usual new-student concerns, plus issues finding transportation, missing

evening activities and squeezing in library visits. "I felt overwhelmed and not very welcome," she relates. She was in danger of dropping out, but meetings with Troyer changed all that. "I had someone to talk to, to encourage me to try new things and introduce me to other commuter students." Now, she has campus jobs as a tour guide and community ambassador, and has explored starting a sorority. "My biggest goal is making an impact at Marquette," she says.

Marquette is ready to build on the pilot's success — in a big way. A \$15 million gift from Marcus Lemonis, Arts '95, star of CNBC's *The Profit* and CEO of Camping World, and his wife, Bobbi, will transform the Wisconsin Avenue-frontage of Memorial Library into the Lemonis Center for Student Success, giving students a welcoming resource hub from arrival through graduation. Says Dr. John Su, vice provost for academic affairs and student success, "We want every student to feel they have a champion on campus as they develop their sense of agency and self-efficacy starting in their first semester." ☺

**NURSING**

**advancing virtual care**

Many health care providers shifted to video during the pandemic. Now, telehealth is here to stay. To prepare students and others for this new world of care delivery, the College of Nursing launched the Telehealth Virtual Care Accelerator, supported by a \$1.5 million grant from a private foundation. Director and principal investigator Patricia Schroeder, Nurs '75, Grad '78, '97, research lead Dr. Stacey Lerret, Grad '02, '11, and partners — guided by an advisory board of Marquette-based and national experts — are developing educational programs, research efforts and nursing approaches offering students a “clear and contemporary perspective” of digital care rooted in Jesuit values, Schroeder says.



**RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

**defenders of water**

Marquette’s largest-ever award for water research will promote healthier environments for troops and civilians.

BY STEPHEN FILMANOWICZ

**A**cross the country, communities are wrestling with concerns about the water flowing through their taps. Fortunately, though, many issues driving these concerns — such as the impact of PFAS “forever” chemicals in soil and water, the rise of antibiotic- and antiseptic-resistant pathogens, and the need to recycle wastewater in locations with limited water and sewer resources — are the subject of intense research interest. These topics arise regularly when faculty members from across campus meet to discuss their water research expertise, projects and aspirations, something that’s happened monthly over the past five years as part of Marquette’s participation in Milwaukee’s Global Water Center.

Recently, this collaboration helped Marquette receive its largest federal award to date for water-related research — \$3.8 million from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fund an ambitious program, Novel Technologies to Mitigate Water Contamination for Resilient Infrastructure, which researchers have given the memorable name In Defense of Water. Led by Dr. Daniel Zitomer, chair and professor of civil, construction and environmental engineering, eight faculty members from diverse fields are working in four teams, collaborating with researchers from two laboratories of the Army’s Engineer Research and Development Center. Dr. Martin Page, who leads a water treatment and reuse technology research team at ERDC, says the project is leveraging “knowledge and skills across institutions to address important technical questions relating to water resiliency.” It will help the Army promote

sustainability, resilience and health on and around military sites — and yield public health benefits as well.

**Project highlights include:**

- A team led by Dr. Brooke Mayer, associate professor of civil, construction and environmental engineering, is advancing a mobile wastewater recovery system designed to play a key role in deserts and other locales where clean water and/or sewerage resources are or will be insufficient, requiring water to otherwise be trucked in and out.
- Dr. Krassimira Hristova, associate professor of biological sciences, leads a team addressing increased disinfectant use in buildings and the rise of illness-causing pathogens that are resistant to antiseptics or antibiotics. Examining what is killed by typical disinfectants and what comes back after their use, the team will also study alternatives that control bacteria and virus growth with “less disruption of existing indoor microbial communities, the diversity of which helps keep pathogens in check without contributing to antimicrobial resistance,” Hristova says.
- Used in food packaging and firefighting foam, PFAS chemicals are accumulating in the environment and posing threats to human health. A team led by Dr. Christopher Marshall, assistant professor of biological sciences, is responding with an innovative system involving electrochemical removal of PFAS and subsequent bioelectrochemical degradation and destruction, leveraging strains of bacteria that may degrade these toxic compounds.
- Dr. Anthony Parolari, assistant professor of civil, construction and environmental engineering, leads a project harnessing massive water-related datasets for improved design and management of water infrastructure, engaging colleagues from engineering and law to develop a data- and policy-driven approach to improve water quality. ☺



**BOOKSHELF**

**a veteran helps — and heals**

Volunteerism eased wartime pain.

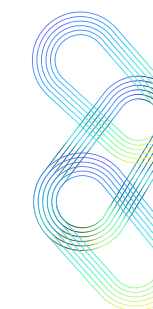
BY TRACY STAEDTER

After serving in combat in the Vietnam War for a year and then working in Asia for decades, Tom Crowley, Arts '71, left his corporate life for volunteerism. In 1998, he began devoting time to Mercy Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, a Catholic foundation started by Rev. Joe Maier and Sister Maria Chantavarodom to support impoverished children. Like Crowley, many of the children suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, in their cases from abuse and neglect. While navigating difficult situations with them, Crowley would experience flashbacks to painful memories of the battlefield. His wartime trauma, including survivor’s guilt, helped him bond with the children, he believes. Crowley, an author and previous winner of a bronze medal award from the Military Writers Society of America, traces this healing arc in his newest book, *Mercy’s Heroes* (Koehler Books, 2021). It juxtaposes shimmering tales of the courage and resilience of children living in poverty with heartbreaking stories from the battlefield. Working with the children and the center’s staff taught Crowley “to give the pain to the angels to carry. That doesn’t erase the memories, but it helps to manage them.” ☺

**ARTS & SCIENCES**

**data deliberated**

Data ties our lives together. But issues such as unfair algorithmic biases, the unequal effects of computer-driven outcomes and the privacy threats of widespread surveillance systems have raised ethical concerns about how data is used, collected and shared. The new Center for Data, Ethics, and Society in the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences will confront these issues by supporting research, teaching and public events, and engaging a diverse community of educators, students and corporate partners. This collaboration, rooted in the university’s Catholic, Jesuit mission of social justice, will put ethics at the center of a broad examination of “how data is affecting our society,” says Dr. Michael Zimmer, associate professor of computer science and the new center’s director.



# BEYOND BOUNDARIES



**📍 LAW WITH A SIDE OF DANISH.** Arriving in Copenhagen for a semester abroad, Nicholas Bergosh was impressed. “The city and people were so beautiful; I felt like I was on a *Vogue* photo shoot.” He quickly adapted to learning law in a foreign land. “They teach many of the same concepts. My textbook was written by American law professors and rarely mentioned cases outside the U.S.” To serve law students who want both foreign study and on-time degrees, Marquette has developed relationships with three foreign law schools. “You have to plan ahead,” Bergosh says. “Find out what courses you need to graduate and when they’re offered. From there, it’s all scheduling but well worth it.”



MISSION & IDENTITY

## sealed in Jesuit values

Marquette’s updated seal honors the university’s Catholic, Jesuit identity and the legacy of Indigenous nations.

BY TRACY STAEDTER

**L**ate this winter, Marquette’s Board of Trustees approved an updated version of the university’s seal. It was created through thoughtful conversations among a committee of experts convened in 2020 at the request of President Michael R. Lovell. The resulting imagery expresses

Marquette’s history and Catholic, Jesuit mission, and recognizes the role of Indigenous nations whose members guided Rev. Jacques Marquette, S.J., through the Upper Midwest. “The updated university seal is a beautiful reflection of who we are and what we stand for,” Lovell says.

One half of the seal captures Marquette’s Catholic, Jesuit traditions. In the upper left, gold and red diagonal bands pay homage to seven heroic brothers from the maternal side of St. Ignatius’ family. To the right, a sunburst encircles the Society of Jesus’ “IHS” monogram. A cross rises from the H; below it, three nails symbolize the Crucifixion.

The other half depicts Marquette’s location among the traditional lands and waterways of the area’s Indigenous nations. Three rivers represent the local Milwaukee,

“All journeys in our lives rely on the help of companions, (so the seal is) a fitting metaphor for the educational mission of Marquette University.”

Rev. Greg O’Meara, S.J.

Menomonee and Kinnickinnic rivers. Three stalks of wild rice, drawn by Milwaukee-based Oneida artist Kristelle M. Ulrich, symbolize the Potawatomi, Menominee and Ho-Chunk nations. The seal’s “connection to our Indigenous history, along with the classic Jesuit imagery, tells a story of a combined but independent history,” says Alex Liberato, Bus Ad ’21, former president of the Native American Student Association.

Rev. Greg O’Meara, S.J., rector of the Marquette Jesuit Community, says that because “all journeys in our lives rely on the help of companions,” the seal is “a fitting metaphor for the educational mission of Marquette University.”

Finally, a blue-and-gold outer ring declares Marquette’s name, founding year and the Jesuit motto that, as much as any phrase at Marquette, defines its spirit: *Ad majorem Dei gloriam*, “All for the greater glory of God.” ☉



GRADUATE STUDY

### incubating enrollment

Graduate study at Marquette is growing. Since 2016, enrollment in the Graduate School (which is separate from professional programs in law, business and a few other fields) has increased by 500 students. New enrollments rose 22 percent this year alone. The jump is thanks in part to an innovative incubator program that provides seed funding for faculty teams to create degree programs that respond to emerging needs. Established in 2017, the incubator has funded the launch of 18 programs and attracted enough enrollees to earn back its initial investment. Examples include two new offerings in growing fields: a new master’s in criminal justice data analytics and the new rehabilitation counseling specialization within the Clinical Mental Health Counseling master’s program.



E-LEAD

**investment in leadership**

A \$7 million gift from the Fotsch Family Foundation will support Marquette's Excellence in Leadership (E-Lead) Program, which helps students develop into the next generation of Jesuit-educated leaders. The gift establishes the Fotsch Innovation and Engineering Leadership Development (FIELD) Center and endows its directorship. Program leader Kate Trevey, Bus Ad '04, is now the Nana Fotsch Director for the FIELD Center, overseeing award-winning program activities, many of which will be held in top-floor space in the O'Brien College of Business Administration building when it opens in early 2023. As the gift lifts the foundation's support for Marquette's *Time to Rise* fundraising campaign to \$14 million, Geraldine "Nana" Fotsch says she "must share all the blessings that the good Lord has showered" on her family.



Rendering courtesy of HOK and Workshop Architects

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

**wellness reimaged**

Revamped and expanded facility will unite wellness and recreation resources under one roof.

BY CHRISTOPHER STOLARSKI

**A**t his inauguration, President Michael R. Lovell was introduced in a video showing him running through campus and Milwaukee. It told attendees about his personal drive and embrace of fitness, and set a tone for what he calls a "culture of wellness" at Marquette.

At his annual campus address in March, President Lovell unveiled the physical manifestation of that culture: plans for a reimaged wellness and recreation facility on the site of the current Helfaer Rec Center on the southwestern edge of campus.

"We cannot overlook that our students' health and wellness is important to their success," he said at the address where he revealed renderings of an estimated \$80 million, 180,000-square-foot facility that will combine completely renovated portions of the Rec Center with a newly constructed three-story wellness tower at its core.

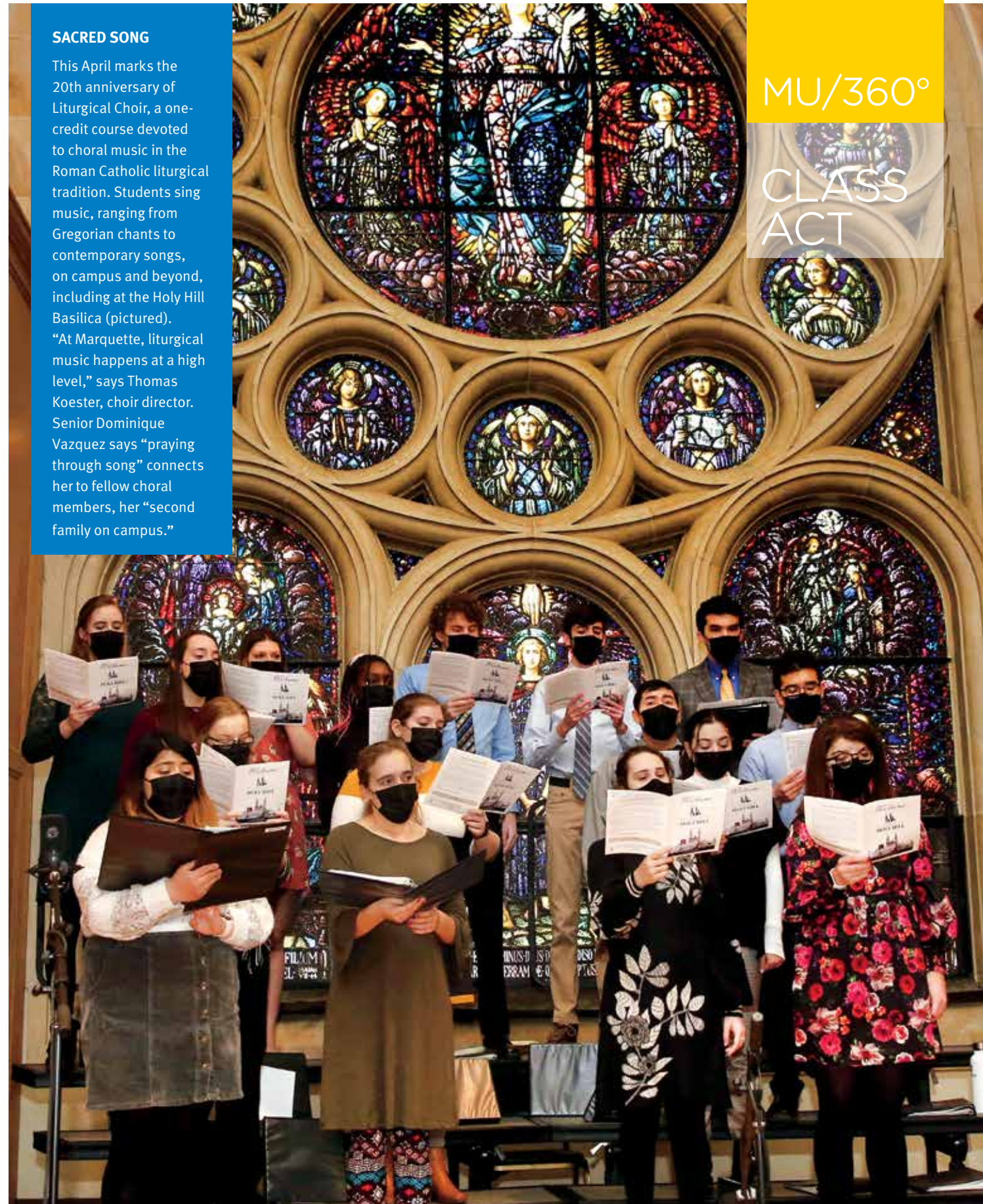
Creating a centralized hub for all facets of health and wellness at Marquette has long been a priority for the 24th president and a key part of the Campus Master Plan. "When complete, the facility will position recreation, fitness, and clinical and mental health services under one roof," Lovell said. "It will eliminate any stigma for anyone walking in the facility no matter what services they need. ... When you think about the future of wellness on campus, we want to be the state of the art."

The glass-encased wellness tower and atrium will welcome in natural light and bring the Marquette University Medical Clinic, the Counseling Center, alcohol and drug recovery program space, and sexual violence prevention space into the same facility as recreation and fitness amenities, including tennis, basketball and multipurpose courts, and a 25-yard swimming pool.

The goal is to complete the facility by the end of 2024, contingent on funding. An anonymous alumni couple in December 2021 launched a \$10 million giving challenge toward the effort. ☺

SACRED SONG

This April marks the 20th anniversary of Liturgical Choir, a one-credit course devoted to choral music in the Roman Catholic liturgical tradition. Students sing music, ranging from Gregorian chants to contemporary songs, on campus and beyond, including at the Holy Hill Basilica (pictured). "At Marquette, liturgical music happens at a high level," says Thomas Koester, choir director. Senior Dominique Vazquez says "praying through song" connects her to fellow choral members, her "second family on campus."



CLASS ACT





**SCHOLARSHIP  
smart support**

Among the 53,000 donors already supporting Marquette's *Time to Rise* fundraising campaign are two new members of the Marquette community, Men's Basketball Head Coach Shaka Smart and his wife, Maya. The couple have made a major gift that will help students, particularly Black students, handle emergency financial strains. With their up-close view of student-athletes experiencing such growth and transformation, says Maya Smart, "It really resonated with us that there were students on this campus who aren't able to take advantage of all Marquette has to offer." The fund honors Bo, Sp '77, and Candy Ellis, known for their own generous scholarship support.



**SNOWBALLS IN LEBANON**

**what I nearly missed**

Finally, something I'm good at.

BY REV. GARRETT GUNDLACH, S.J.

was the first one out of the restaurant by design, quick down and around the stairs for the best position beside a new drift of snow. The next guys out didn't know what hit them, BAM! on the pant leg, WHOP! in the back of their puffy jackets. And all they heard or saw was laughter.

Half made a run straight for the cars — it was already way too cold for them before the snow — and the barrage of frozen projectiles only intensified this inclination. But the other half, in fake flee, scooped, turned and — by a snowball woefully off the mark — thus announced their intended retaliation. Instantly, I found myself in the middle of a free-for-all. I sized up my challengers on the fly by the quality of their packing, their ducks, dodges, distance and, of course, by their accuracy. But soon, none of that mattered as — WHAP! OOF! — shifting alliance by shifting alliance, numb finger by numb hand — we became, once more, no matter what climate we were from, children at play, mouths frozen open with glee.

Didn't see it coming. We chose the change in scenery and elevation, climbing to these sea-flanking hills — a sort of "high sierra" forming the north-south spine of Lebanon. But the sky and forecast were still clear when we sat down for traditional man'oushe. Then, snow fell. And it was the first time I saw snow fall in more than two years.

Even a few months later, words cannot express the impact of this gift, this grace, this joyful reminder. A Wisconsin boy far out of his element, constantly adapting to hot weather, hard languages and new cultures, but here, after a long wait, I was once again totally in my wheelhouse. I had forgotten what it felt like to be really, really good at something, even if it was just at making a mess. ☺

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

The formation of Jesuit priest Garrett Gundlach, S.J., Arts '09, has taken him from Paris to Lebanon for studies in Arabic and Islam-Christian dialogue; he returned to the U.S. last summer for his ordination as priest.



**CURATED  
FURRY AND  
FEATHERED**

Before St. Joan of Arc Chapel and its grounds were renovated recently, Dr. Darek Ciemniowski, Grad '91, '99, law school writing specialist, found the space "rich in opportunities" to capture birds, bugs and small mammals in close-up photographs. He'll return to the new Gratitude Garden this spring, on the lookout for resident Northern Cardinals and their young brood.





FOR BASIR BITA, HIS WIFE, HOSNIA, AND THEIR CHILDREN, MARQUETTE AWAITS AT THE END OF A PERILOUS JOURNEY.



**WHEN LONGTIME PARTNER BASIR BITA BECAME A TALIBAN TARGET, MARQUETTE RALLIED WITH A RELOCATION PLAN. BITA AND HIS FAMILY JUST NEEDED TO ESCAPE FIRST.**

# ONE WAY OUT

BY KAREN COATES

**“Taliban is everywhere ... ”**

It’s Aug. 13 in Milwaukee, Aug. 14 in Kabul, two days before the Afghan capital will fall to the Taliban, roughly two weeks before the U.S. will complete its withdrawal from its last post at Kabul’s international airport. Tensions flare.

Seven thousand miles away, at Marquette, Patrick Kennelly, Arts ’07, Grad ’13, follows the news on his phone and fears for his friend. He sends a message:

“In these difficult times how can we help you?”

The friend is Basir Bitá: a colleague, an activist, a target. Bitá’s 17-year-old daughter, Mahdia, was injured in a drive-by shooting. His wife, Hosnia Rezaee, worries the Taliban will kill him. This danger stems from Bitá’s work fighting for the rights of the marginalized: women, minorities, the poor and LGBTQ members of Afghan society.

It’s a mission Bitá shares with Kennelly, a thread binding Afghanistan and Marquette. The two have worked for years with partners to build a program in nonviolence connecting Bitá’s cohort of young peace workers in Afghanistan and Marquette’s Center for Peacemaking, which Kennelly directs. But now, plans perish in the rubble of bombs and guns. Dreams take a rear seat to immediate needs.



Starting in 2011, Patrick Kennelly, director of Marquette's Center for Peacemaking (standing left), made many trips to Afghanistan, joining an international effort to support Afghan partners — including Basir Bitá — promoting nonviolence in their war-torn country.

The drama unfolds over Facebook and WhatsApp, long-distance lifelines of hope. Within hours, Kabul falls. The airport remains a rare escape option, per a U.S.-Taliban deal to cooperate in the massive, frenzied evacuation that marks the end of this 20-year occupation. “What are you going to do? Can you get a flight?” Kennelly asks. “It’s difficult now. All flights are booked for all neighboring countries ...,” Basir replies. “Sending love to you and yours.” “Likewise. Love you all.” A week later, the airport is a maelstrom. More than 800 Afghans cram into a U.S. Air Force cargo jet heading for Qatar. Others cling to the outside of the aircraft. Videos go viral, the world watching as the plane lifts and bodies drop from the sky.

Bitá and his family try to flee seven times. “I witnessed ... literally thousands of people storming into the airport,” he recalls. “Every time.” U.S. soldiers try to curb the chaos, cursing and pointing guns at desperate faces. By now, the Taliban form an intimidating force around the airport. Soldiers haunt the nightmares of Bitá’s son, Barbod. “You can imagine how horrible it is for a 5-year-old kid to go through all those challenges,” Bitá says.

**Half a world away, Kennelly and his colleagues mobilize.** The center issues a statement asking friends and supporters to pray for an end to the suffering, to help in any way they can. The appeal ignites action. Activists, peacemakers, educators, administrators — so many want to help. Someone asks, can Marquette provide education to an Afghan in need? A donor pledges to fund a scholarship. Kennelly calls Rana Altenburg, Bus Ad ’88, associate vice president for public affairs. Will Marquette get behind this impromptu idea? She advises checking with her boss, Paul Jones, vice

president for university relations. It’s 7 or 8 p.m. when Kennelly calls, and Jones is at Valley Fields watching a Marquette men’s soccer match since his son plays on the team. As soon as he hears the story, Jones says yes, let’s find a prospective student.

After more than a dozen years of collaboration, the Marquette center and its partners had a list of 90 or so Afghans needing aid — and they had to choose one. A sobering triage hinged on the question: Where could the greatest good be done? “And Basir rose to the top,” Kennelly says. Not only did he have stellar academic credentials and a longtime desire to further his education, but an F-1 student visa could bring his family of four to safety.

Kennelly makes a call on WhatsApp: “Hey Basir, it’s Pat. Give me a call on Signal. I have a couple of options I wanna talk to you about.”

Marquette had a plan for Bitá’s future. But first, Bitá had to get out of Kabul.

**Basir Bitá didn’t know he was Afghan until he was 13 or 14.** Born and raised in Iran, he thought of himself as Iranian until one day, a school official insulted him with a slur he paraphrases as, “You stupid Afghan!”

“I’m not an Afghan!” he replied in shock.

“Yes, you are,” the official said. “Go home and ask your parents.”

So he did, and they told him: “We are originally Afghans. And we should be proud of our identity.”

That was Bitá’s introduction to racism. It shook and shaped him. His family was Hazara, an Afghan ethnic minority, and had fled to Iran. “We were all refugees, even though I was born there.”

The episode opened his eyes to the bigotry embedded in Iranian society and left him with a desire to figure out who he was. He read history, studied the culture and surrounded himself with other Afghans in Iran.

Jump ahead several years to 2003. Bitá was taking Iran’s Konkour, the brutally competitive nationwide exam used to assign spaces in public universities. He finished in the top 1,000, out of more than a million. Good enough for him to enroll in the second-highest-rated public university. But soon, the university told him refugees were ineligible for admission. Even more galling: Syrian and Iraqi refugees gained admission, he says, but “they refused to accept any Afghans.”

The incident redirected Bitá’s life. “When I was rejected, I decided to go to Afghanistan and pursue my education.” It became a place for him to further develop his identity and connect with his roots. From the day he started preparing for his move, he thought, “This is home. ... This is where I belong.” Remembering those days, he always smiles “because they were nice days,” he says.

But they didn’t last. Although he’d grown up speaking Dari, one of two official languages in Afghanistan, he was required to learn Pashto — the other language — for a class. “It was difficult,” he says. His grade suffered because of the language barrier, and he saw his experience as another form of discrimination, paralleling an ethnocentrism soon revealed all around him — across the university, in the social, political and economic layers of the country as a whole. For Bitá, this was an entrée to activism. He and friends joined Hazaras student associations, “so we had our own network; we were doing our own advocacy,” he says. “I had to struggle and fight for my rights, even in my own country.”

**One of eight such academic centers at Jesuit institutions worldwide, the Marquette Center for Peacemaking** was founded in 2008 to cultivate the next generation of nonviolent peacemakers, “young people who would have the courage to challenge injustice and address social realities,” Kennelly says.

His role guiding the center grew from a connection with peace activist and Nobel nominee Kathy Kelly, who served as peacemaker-in-residence at Marquette during the center’s inaugural year. Her mission, rooted in resistance to war, spans from Haiti to Bosnia, Iraq to the West Bank. She’s served prison time for planting corn on nuclear missile silo sites and been fined for taking medicines and toys to Iraq in violation of sanctions.

Kelly invited Kennelly — then a Marquette grad teaching history in the Milwaukee Public Schools — to volunteer for a project documenting stories of displaced Iraqis in Syria and Jordan. This work, Voices for Creative Nonviolence, earned international recognition and prompted appeals from young Afghan activists. “We’re a small but nascent peace group trying to explore the power of nonviolence,” they wrote. “Will you come visit our work and help



At a 2012 International Human Rights Day event attended by Marquette delegates, Bitá was at the podium translating for Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Mairead Maguire. In Kabul, Kennelly conducted research interviews with Afghan peace activists (bottom).



**After encountering chaos at the Kabul airport and failing multiple times to find a flight out of there, Basir Bitá, his wife Hosnia, and their children, Mahdia (17) and Barbod (5), finally made it to safety in Canada. With anticipated visas in hand, they'll be in Milwaukee by summer.**

rights are respected," explains Chris Jeske, Bus Ad '11, Center for Peacemaking associate director. It is the ideal to which Bitá has always aspired.

Kennelly describes 36-year-old Bitá as "a quiet guy ... always reading and wanting to talk about big ideas." Starting around 2017, the two worked with a small team in Afghanistan to co-teach an introductory course for college-age Afghans on nonviolence theory and practice.

Kennelly wanted to get to the heart of a key question: What does nonviolence mean in Afghanistan, where most of his students had never lived without war? "The number one thing that stood out to me is that it wasn't theoretical at all for these guys," Kennelly says of the students he encountered in person and online. In one conversation, Americans pledged nonviolence, even if under threat. Then an Afghan student spoke: "I, of course, want nonviolence, and everything, but if somebody came through the door with a gun or was trying to kidnap me ... I don't know what I'd do." He spoke not of textbook dogma but a visceral understanding of fear.

It was an eye-opener for Kennelly. "There was more of an honesty in thinking through what it would actually mean to be nonviolent."

**Three months before the U.S. pullout, the Taliban mount an offensive, seizing territory victory by victory.** The dangers in Kabul intensify. Bitá and his family start moving from house to house, lying low to evade capture. "My biggest concern in Kabul was that if the Taliban arrested my husband, they would definitely behead him," Rezaee says, Bitá translating.

Bitá has had many jobs — in research, translation, education and leadership — for scholars, agencies and foundations. He has worldwide friends and partners. "When something inhuman happens in any part of the world," he says, "I feel I am responsible for that because they are my sisters and brothers." His profile as a peacemaker makes him a known figure to the Taliban. "It was incredibly difficult," Rezaee says. "Getting to a safe place was my only hope."

One night, Bitá is driving his family home from a party when five gunmen try to force them off the road. "We have no idea who the people were," he recalls. When he fails to stop, the gunmen open fire. Mahdia is hit in the foot. After shrapnel is removed at a hospital, she is shaken but survives. They all survive on the flimsy line between endurance and despair.

**SUPPORT THIS EFFORT THROUGH MARQUETTE'S AFGHAN EDUCATION FUND @ GIVE.MARQUETTE.EDU/GIVE-PEACEMAKING.**

t's late August, the final hours of the U.S. evacuation from Kabul's airport. There is no longer a way out by air from here. Instead, Bitá and his family travel overland 260 miles northwest to Mazar-i-Sharif. The Taliban control almost all aspects of life and society now, but there is talk of an evacuation flight leaving from there.

Along the road, Taliban soldiers search Bitá's bus. When they reach him, they demand: What's inside your bag? He is terrified. His laptop holds all his data, his life and identity. This single moment could ruin his family's future. It's food for my kids, Bitá says. And to his great relief, the soldier tells him, "OK." The family makes it, intact.

"Just arrived in Mazar-i-Sharif," Bitá texts Kennelly on Aug. 30. But they're not safe. The next day, Taliban soldiers fire shots in the air to celebrate their triumph. There's a curfew for civilians. "If Taliban find you on the streets they will stop you, they will do a body search," Bitá shares in a WhatsApp message. "They will all look up at your cell phone and if they found any connections, who knows about the consequences."

Bitá later sends a photo of the famous Blue Mosque in Mazar-i-Sharif, where children scamper about with colorful balloons. This tranquil spot, surrounded by hundreds of white doves, is often called an "oasis of peace." Within days, a Canadian nonprofit group with ties to Bitá arranges tickets for the family on a humanitarian flight to Islamabad in neighboring Pakistan. It is "the very last flight of the United Nations for Afghans," Bitá says. "There were no more flights of such kind in the future."

But even their passage to Pakistan does not end this long, circuitous search for sanctuary. The family essentially hides in a hotel, venturing out only occasionally, inconspicuously, for fear of being seen by Taliban supporters. It is the ubiquitous fear of any refugee who knows their oppressors have eyes in many places. Someone always knows something.

Finally, after 47 more days, comes a time of grace. The family — Basir, Hosnia, Mahdia and Barbod — catch a flight to Canada, landing in Toronto last fall.

"I keep telling myself, 'Everything is going to be all right soon,'" says Rezaee, who still struggles to grasp this new life and its semblance of security.

"Sometimes when I talk about what I went through in detail, I feel chopped, and tears come down my face."

As the journey of Bitá and his family winds slowly, hopefully toward Milwaukee, Kennelly and colleagues raise roughly \$110,000 for the family. It's \$40,000 short of their overall goal, Kennelly says, but there is still time.

Through the collaboration of a department head, dean and donors, Bitá is prepared to enroll in Marquette's Clinical Mental Health Counseling master's program this fall. Others are working to help Mahdia pursue her studies, since she was just shy of high school graduation in Kabul. And Notre Dame School of Milwaukee, led by Patrick Landry, Arts '08, will welcome Barbod for first grade.

Meanwhile, Bitá keeps working to help others stuck in Afghanistan. He sends immigration information to friends, fueling their flagging stamina. "They have no hope for their future," he admits.

He counters pain with fortitude. His decision to study counseling at Marquette is driven by the needs of his people. His transition to academics, prompted by the cruelty of conflict, may ultimately pave his future path toward peace. "I am hopeful that someday I will be able to establish my own nonviolence institute in Afghanistan," he says. "I was very close ... before the fall of Kabul."

Until then, he has new chapters of his story to write. He and his family are in Vancouver now, as they pursue U.S. residency. In summer — if expected visas come through, and circumstance throws no more curveballs their way — the family will move to Milwaukee. Until they find a place of their own, Kennelly and his wife, Emme Malloy, Arts '06, Grad '12, will shelter them in the spacious house they share with their two children and her parents. There is room for more, Malloy says, in both house and heart.

**"Dear Patrick, How are you, Emme and little buddies?" Bitá asks in a recent message.** "We learn new things about Canada every day. Nice place, but chilly. ... You must remember that I have been writing the story of my journey from Kabul. ... It's more than 55,000 words now. ... The purpose of writing the story is to raise awareness and advocate for those still stuck in Afghanistan but in dire need of support. ..."

"Congrats on the progress," Kennelly replies. "Thanks. The work is not finished yet."



**Although the promise of peacemaking has faded from earlier days, including when Bitá celebrated partnering with Marquette to launch a nonviolence course (bottom image, right), he vows to follow study at Marquette with a fresh effort to return and establish a nonviolence institute.**

# BRENDAN GRAMER

IS

LISTENING

BY LORA STRUM

**BORN DEAF, THE AMAZON EXECUTIVE AND ALUMNUS KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEEL UNHEARD. IT'S WHY HIS LIFE'S WORK REVOLVES AROUND HEARING WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS.**



grew up mainstreamed in a hearing world and, to fit in, he used oral communication with friends and family. While many people were supportive, he still faced slights or microaggressions, called audism in the deaf community, from those who may not recognize their hearing privilege. He gives an example that sometimes happens when he's in a large group and asks someone to repeat themselves. Often, that person will say to him, "Oh, never mind," and move on.

Deaf individuals feel left out in those moments, he says. "It doesn't recognize us as human beings."

In those situations, he tries to identify reasonable accommodations. When dining out, he'll ask the waitstaff to write down any specials so he doesn't have to strain to understand them over the cacophony of dishware and conversation. This form of self-advocacy was something he honed through his interactions with others in the deaf community. "I let go of the idea that I was weak or dependent on others, or that I couldn't ask for support," Gramer says. In adopting that new mindset, he stopped referring to himself as deaf and instead adopted the strength inherent in being Deaf — capital D.

Friendly and attentive even over a pixelated Zoom call, Gramer clearly values the forging of strong networks. It's a habit he first developed in grade school and continued to cultivate at Marquette, where befriending fellow students was about more than camaraderie. Letting people in allowed him to compare notes when he couldn't understand a lecture and create a study group that helped meet his unique needs.

Gramer's life may be the embodiment of what it means to Be The Difference by embracing differences, but for him the idea goes beyond just achieving workplace change. Being a difference maker requires being vulnerable enough to share our stories. "That empowers all of us to become closer and to create support," he says. "That's the message I want to tell everyone at Marquette: Share your stories, believe your truth and ask for help."

Today, Gramer's dedication to finding new ways to help others communicate is unwavering, but what he's most excited about in his work and life is leaving something behind for his sons. "I want to have lived my life knowing what I've done benefits others, especially my boys," he says, "and makes the world a better, more inclusive place for them."

disabilities, he also wanted to showcase the many facets of the deaf experience. It's why he invited the cameras into his home where he and his wife, Laura, are raising their sons, Brett and Lucas, 10 and 7, who were also born deaf.

The commercial is "100 percent the real me," Gramer says. He hopes that it shows how disabled individuals "are human too." Since debuting in May 2021, the ad has generated more than 20 million views on YouTube — more than any other spot in the series — and was broadcast during major sporting events. Everywhere Gramer goes, people now recognize him and his signature chest-length beard. They share how his story helped them understand disability. This feeling of being understood, Gramer says, has been central to his work for years.

Historically, disability advocates like Gramer have had to struggle to communicate with the world around them. Gramer

savings accounts for health needs.

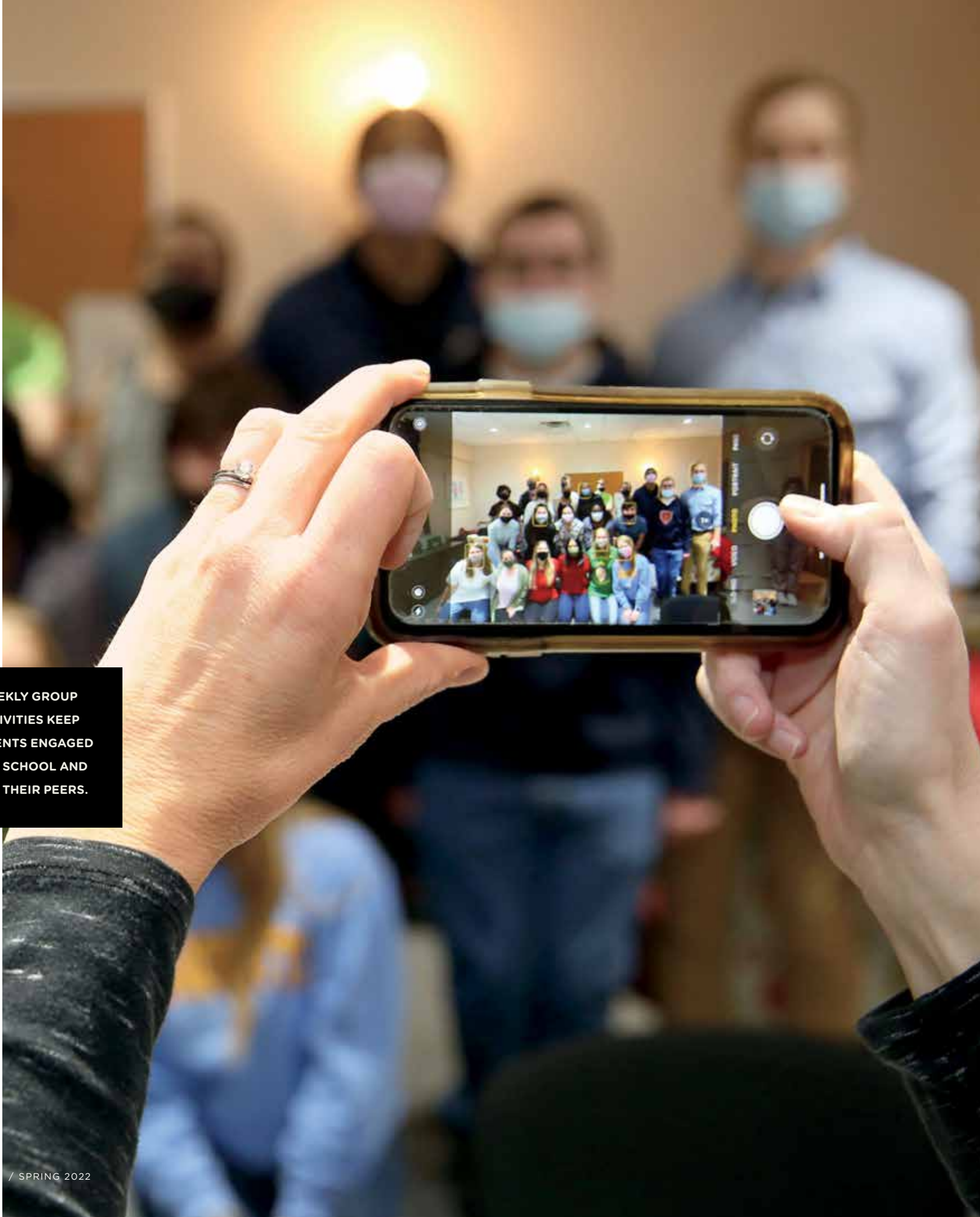
Gramer is also global president of Amazon's People with Disabilities employee resource group, an organization he co-founded to help one of the world's largest companies better support employees and customers with disabilities. Through the group, he has helped create the "Tap for Alexa" feature that allows the deaf and hard of hearing to give the digital assistant visual cues for commands. He also has helped translate the Amazon logo into American Sign Language and add a voice command system to the Amazon Lockers so blind individuals can more easily retrieve packages. "We want to help customers with disabilities by sharing our voices with leaders to allow them to learn more about how we live, our attitudes and our beliefs," Gramer says.

Gramer's process of sharing his voice was featured — and amplified — when his inclusion efforts became the subject of a commercial in the high-profile "Inside Amazon" series. While it was important to Gramer that the campaign explore the value of making companies function better for those with

his Zoom call is not going well. The screen keeps freezing and the audio is stuttering. Brendan Gramer, however, is unfazed by the technological failure. Gramer, CIPA '94, was born deaf and has spent his life finding ways to communicate. This moment is no different.

"Sometimes I have to help others understand what I need," Gramer, 50, says once the technical issues have been resolved and a sign-language interpreter has joined the call. "Everyone has their own way of communicating."

With more than 20 years spent designing web experiences to help people interact with the world around them, Gramer developed apps, content management systems and more before joining Amazon in 2015. Now he is senior manager of user experience for payments. Focused on technological accessibility and efficiency, Gramer has used his skills to make Amazon's familiar checkout experience work seamlessly for people using SNAP food benefit cards to purchase groceries or for those who want to use health



WEEKLY GROUP  
ACTIVITIES KEEP  
STUDENTS ENGAGED  
WITH SCHOOL AND  
WITH THEIR PEERS.



**THE YOUNG PROGRAM ON YOUR MARQ GIVES AUTISTIC STUDENTS A HOME AT MARQUETTE — AND SUPPORTS THEM AS THEY BUILD THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO GRADUATE AND FIND CAREERS.**

BY TRACY STAEDTER

# HITTING THE MARK

**It's the first week of final exams and about 35 students — all wearing masks — gather around a U-shaped conference table to decorate gingerbread houses.** Laughter and holiday music soften the office-bright lighting. In the back of the room, the comforting smell of pepperoni and cheese rises from a dozen pizza boxes stacked on a table.

"I think it's great that we're doing this, especially during finals when people are lonely," says sophomore Ben Jennings. "We need to get together and just relax."

Stress and isolation are difficult for anybody, but for the one person in 44 in the U.S. living with autism spectrum disorder, Jennings among them, coping with college can be particularly challenging. Autism affects the brain's early development of social and communication skills. Although students on the spectrum often possess strong intellectual capabilities, they must overcome other obstacles standing in the way of their academic progress, such as difficulty managing time, staying organized and studying effectively.



**Web of support:** On Your Marq Program Director Emily Raclaw (above, at desk and far right) says her personal experience with neurodivergence helps her relate to her students. Raven, the therapy dog, pulls students out of their shells.

“Only about 41 percent of individuals with a disability, including ASD, graduate,” says Dr. Amy Van Hecke, professor of psychology. For those without a disability, the U.S. graduation rate is about 60 percent.

Seeing an opportunity to meet a glaring educational need, Van Hecke teamed with Dr. Mary Carlson, Grad '16, clinical associate professor of educational policy and leadership, and Wendy Krueger, Grad '92, clinical associate professor of speech pathology and audiology, to establish a set of strategies to help neurodivergent students manage college. With funding from donors, they created the On Your Marq program, which launched in 2019. Its web of support includes the program's director, Emily Raclaw, her support dog, Raven, and a host of peer mentors and academic and mental health coaches who assist autistic students in building their academic, social and professional skills. Three years in, the program has 17 students enrolled, with 11 new applicants

pending for the fall. Members of the first cohort are set to graduate late this spring.

“This is about *cura personalis*. This is about recruiting a population of students who might not come here otherwise. It's about academic excellence, supporting them in their careers, so they graduate on time and go on to live fulfilling lives,” Van Hecke says.

**L**ate in 2018, Dr. Sarah Wadsworth, professor of English at Marquette, started to worry about how her son, Blaise Black, who is autistic, was going to successfully manage living on a busy college campus. He was a junior in a suburban Milwaukee high school and although he excelled academically, he was showing signs of stress from the environmental and organizational aspects of school and seemed reluctant to contemplate post-secondary options.

Then Wadsworth read an article in a Marquette newsletter that Van Hecke, Carlson and Krueger were launching On Your Marq. “It changed my whole outlook,” says Wadsworth.

The program was funded with a gift from John, Arts '64, and Kate Miller, who had a young family member on the spectrum and were concerned about the child's prospects for college. In their search for a director, Van Hecke, Carlson and

Krueger were independently impressed with Raclaw. Her own experience living with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder combined with her expertise creating college programs for disability, diversity and neurodiversity education made her an ideal candidate. “She's a force to be reckoned with, and that's what we need,” Van Hecke says.

Black, Wadworth's son, was among the first cohort of five students to sign up in 2019. Like all On Your Marq participants, he was assigned a peer mentor and a graduate coach from one of Marquette's psychology, counseling or occupational therapy programs. Graduate coaches work one-on-one with students to create individualized plans for managing academics, social life and independent living. Peer mentors help the students execute those plans. Mentors also organize events, such as football- or movie-watching parties and video game tournaments. And they provide tips on navigating relationships and social interactions.

“I imagine that if I had not joined the program, I would be quite lost with regards to the goings-on on campus. I would probably only focus on my work and nothing else. In reality, I am a lot more aware of events I might want to participate in,” says Black, now a junior double majoring in math and computer science who was recently admitted to the Accelerated Degree Program in computing, which will allow him to earn a master's in one year.

**R**aclaw is probably the only staff or faculty member in Coughlin Hall — or maybe all of campus — with a dog crate in her office. It's for her certified therapy dog, Raven, an Aussiedoodle (part Australian shepherd, part poodle) that turned 1 year old in February. Raclaw calls Raven her ambassador. “She's just a great conversation starter,” says Raclaw. Students come to visit Raven and, in the process, meet other students in a way that feels natural, she says.

Raclaw says she can relate to her neurodivergent students. To manage her ADHD, she too has adopted specific strategies that help her succeed. For instance, she watches videos online at twice the normal speed and answers emails immediately, so they don't fade into the background of her day. She understands that the world isn't necessarily built for how autistic people

process information, but she hopes to create one in Coughlin Hall that is.

There's a room next to her office with a couch, several comfy chairs, a TV and Nintendo Switch. Down the hall, an open space invites studying. A sensory room nearby has tactile wall art and heavy window shades that darken the space, both designed to soothe anyone feeling overstimulated.

Raclaw has also partnered across campus to establish a network of services. Staff in the Norman H. Ott Memorial Writing Center created a script for students to use when requesting assistance. The Office of Residence Life automatically reassigns sophomores the same room they had as freshmen. The Office of Student Educational Services substitutes one-to-one tutoring for group sessions. Marquette's Occupational Therapy Department and rehab counseling program offer seminars that teach students how to cook, do laundry and clean. “I'm incredibly proud of how Marquette has fully embraced On Your Marq,” says Raclaw.

Freshmen and sophomores get more support as they learn how to transition from high school to college. They're coached on how to ask questions and find answers, how to communicate their needs. They learn to advocate for themselves. Juniors and seniors receive less support as they move from college to career. Through courses designed to reveal potential job interests and practice with resume writing and interviews, students begin to imagine themselves in the workplace.

Ideally, the students continue to grow and persevere after graduation, using the strategies they've learned to communicate their needs and “get what they need in their life,” Raclaw says. “I hope more than anything else that they are happy and satisfied with the experience they had at Marquette and are excited about what the future holds for them.”



**Paws that refresh:** Each student is assigned a peer mentor and a graduate coach who help them manage academics, social life and independent living. Raven, the therapy dog, works as the program's ambassador of wags.

**“THIS IS ABOUT CURA PERSONALIS. THIS IS ABOUT RECRUITING A POPULATION OF STUDENTS WHO MIGHT NOT COME HERE OTHERWISE.”**

— Dr. Amy Van Hecke, professor of psychology



**CELEBRATING THE  
RECIPIENTS OF  
MARQUETTE'S  
ALUMNI NATIONAL  
AWARDS WITH OUR  
HIGHEST PRAISE AND  
GRATITUDE.**

BY ERIN O'DONNELL

PEGGY TROY, NURS  
'74, LEADS THE LIST  
OF IMPRESSIVE  
AND IMPACTFUL  
AWARDEES.

# TRANSFORMERS

Marquette's 2022 All-University Awards recipients have profound impact as women and men for others. They will be honored on campus on June 3 in a ceremony that concludes an amazing awards season recognizing honorees from Marquette's colleges, professional schools and alumni groups who embody the university's mission through their character, achievements and impact.





# A

## luma of the Year Award

**Margaret (Nye) Troy, Nurs '74**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Peggy Troy learned how to treat each patient with *cura personalis* when she was a child making house calls with her father, a family doctor in a tiny Illinois town. During her undergraduate years in Marquette's nursing program, she adopted this value of knowing patients beyond their medical needs and reinforced it. She carried this Jesuit-based approach into her career as a nurse and hospital leader to her current tenure as president and CEO of Children's Wisconsin, the nationally ranked regional health care system dedicated to the health and well-being of children. She credits her pediatric nursing instructor at Marquette with sparking her passion for serving children and their families. "The way she interacted with children and thought about their care really helped set my direction," Troy recalls. The Marquette mission continues to challenge Troy to serve her community, she says. "For me this award really is a reflection on everyone who has helped me along the way and rolled up their sleeves alongside me to make a difference for kids."

## Friend of the University Award

**Richard S. Strong**  
Brookfield, Wisconsin

Dick Strong grew up guided by mentors after losing both parents at a young age. First was his Uncle Robert, then coaches and, later, professors. These invaluable relationships helped form Strong into the person he is today — a visionary leader who honors his mentors of yesterday by giving back today. His support of Marquette spans half a century, starting during the early years of coach Al McGuire. "From that point, the Marquette community became a piece of us," Strong says. "It was a fascinating phenomenon." He remembers lean years long before fans filled Fiserv Forum. He then envisioned Marquette emerging as a national basketball power. His vision now spans far beyond the court. "My dream is for Marquette to be one of the great universities in the world," he says. "Basketball is one wonderful vehicle for that to happen. I consider it a great privilege to be involved with Marquette."



## Service Award

**Cynthia J. Ellis and Maurice H. Ellis, Sp '77**  
South Holland, Illinois

Bo Ellis has always loomed large on Marquette's campus. The 6-foot-9 forward served as captain of the 1977 NCAA championship basketball team under legendary coach Al McGuire. He and his wife, Candy, have long exhibited leadership and service off the court too, speaking often about the importance of helping others and "paying it forward." This was especially evident after the sudden death in 2003 of their beloved daughter Nicole, a 2000 Marquette graduate, from a rare

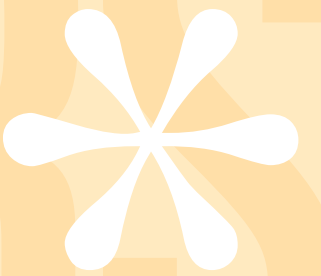
liver disease. They established a foundation in her memory, and one of its goals is to help students of color with limited resources receive a Marquette education. "We want to leave a legacy in Nicole's name because she is no longer here," Candy Ellis explains. "If she was here, she would have made a name for herself."

# S

## pirit of Marquette Award (achievement before age 40)

**Catherine (Spaulding) Wessel, Arts '07, and Matthew R. Wessel, Comm '03, Grad '11**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Katie and Matt Wessel are committed to making a difference in the lives of others — with the help of authentic German-style pretzels. The couple launched the Milwaukee Pretzel Co. in 2013 after living and working for a year in Munich, Germany. "The most rewarding part has been employing and mentoring some amazing people," Matt Wessel says. As the business has expanded, their company has contributed thousands to local organizations. Both Wessels come from Marquette families, and faith is central to their lives. Matt Wessel calls the Marquette mission an "unspoken road map" for his life, while Katie Wessel is driven by the words of St. Ignatius of Loyola. "This award makes me even more energized to live the Marquette mission," she says, "and go set the world on fire."



## A season of celebration

This year's Alumni National Awards will be bestowed in 11 in-person ceremonies on campus from April to June. Visit [Marquette.edu/awards](http://Marquette.edu/awards) for all you need to know about honorees, ceremonies and registration.

### April 21

- Law School

### May 13

- School of Dentistry

### May 14

- Association of Marquette University Women

### June 2

- College of Business Administration
- Opus College of Engineering

- Klingler College of Arts and Sciences

- College of Education

- Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

### June 3

- College of Nursing

- College of Health Sciences

- Diederich College of Communication

- All-University Awards



As Marquette's first director of Black student initiatives, Samira Payne has returned to her alma mater to open doors.

BY MATT MARTINEZ, COMM '20

When Samira M. Payne, Arts '10, drives around Milwaukee's North Side, it reminds her of the streets where she grew up. A native of Chicago's South Side, she sees a community with similar trials and triumphs. Her first thoughts are for the youth — the college hopefuls. How can she help make Marquette a place where they come and expect to succeed?

She recognizes there's work to be done. "If they're enrolling here and not getting the same opportunities as other students because of barriers, obstacles or systemic issues ... if they're just in survival mode, that's not Marquette fully living out its mission," she says.

Payne returned to Marquette, where she majored in social welfare and justice, after working as program director for student-athlete transition programs at the University of Notre Dame. She now serves as Marquette's first

director of Black student initiatives.

Reflecting on life as a first-generation undergraduate, Payne recalls being unaware of all the programs available to her. She wishes she'd done more, like study abroad in South Africa. "Having spent time in higher ed, I recognize that thriving post-college isn't just about the degree," she says. "It's about the experiences that you have in college."

Through the mentorship of Kimberly Jensen Bohat, service learning program director, Payne got involved in service learning, felt more engaged and found her way at Marquette. Bohat is a large reason Payne returned. Payne wants to be that mentor for others, helping Black students find their purpose, as she did. "When I left this university," she says, "I was able to clearly articulate how I saw myself impacting the world and what set my soul on fire."

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

**REUNIONS!**

Alumni from years ending in 1, 2, 6 and 7, this is your reunion year. Learn about Alumni Reunion Weekend at [marquette.edu/awards](http://marquette.edu/awards).

**69** Joel Kriofske, Jour '69, wrote *Making a U-Turn in the Gig Economy!* — an illustrated book chronicling the adventures of Joel and Mary, a husband-and-wife food delivery team. The story is a humorous tale about strange and interesting delivery customers, restaurant workers and denizens of the diverse neighborhoods in which the pair makes deliveries.

**70** Thomas H. Fehring, Eng '70, Grad '75, co-edited *Chronicles of Mechanical Engineering*. Stories cover George Washington's and Thomas Jefferson's influence on engineering in the United States and the country's mechanical engineering history in energy, aviation, land transportation and more. Issued in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the history and heritage committee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the book collects articles published in the society's flagship magazine, *Mechanical Engineering*. Fehring is a contributor to and co-editor of the book.

**June (Toher) McPartland**, Jour '70, published an eco-novel, *Tying the Leaves*, which ranked as an Amazon No. 1 hot new release in the Teen and Young Adult Environmental Conservation and Protection category.

**REUNION YEAR**

**71** Dr. Christopher P. Nemeth, Arts '71, was named a fellow of Applied Research Associates Inc., a 1,500-member national science and engineering consulting firm. Nemeth leads ARA's Cognitive Solutions Group, performing research and development to support individual and team cognitive work in high-hazard sectors. He was also inducted into Eta Kappa Nu, the national honor society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

**REUNION YEAR**

**72** James R. Beer, Law '72, retired July 31, 2021, after serving as a circuit court judge in Green County Circuit Court in Wisconsin. Beer had also served as Green County district attorney, as family court commissioner and on the Green County Board of Supervisors.

**79** John E. Happ, Arts '79, wrote *The Navigation Case: Training, Flying and Fighting the 1942 to 1945 New Guinea War* (Knox Press|Simon & Schuster, 2021).

**Colleen Lawton, M.D.**, Arts '79, professor and vice chair of the department of radiation oncology at the Medical College of Wisconsin, received the 2021 ASTRO Gold Medal, the American Association for Radiation Oncology's highest honor. Since the 1980s, Lawton has focused her clinical research and care on total body radiation therapy and pioneered treatments that

**SO TELL US ...  
SUPPORT  
WOMEN  
BECOMING  
LEADERS**



Institute for Women's Leadership Co-directors Dr. Debra Oswald, professor of psychology, and Dr. Jennica Webster, associate professor of management, offer advice for supporting women on their way up the career ladder.

**Listen to and amplify women's ideas.** Don't interrupt or talk over them — and ensure they get credit for contributions.

**Invest in women's development.** Sponsor women and include them in your professional networks.

**Challenge workplace sexism.** Be an ally and advocate for gender equality.

**Do your fair share.** Balance "chores" between men and women around the office.

**Stop stereotyping.** Both men and women can be leaders.

eliminate kidney toxicity and increase survival in prostate cancer patients. Lawton's numerous accomplishments include serving as the program director of the MCW Radiation Oncology Residency Program for 25 years and helping create the Radiation Oncology Institute. Her dedication to education, mentoring and patient care has helped launch many careers in medicine and improved care for countless patients.

**80** James D. Dati, Sp '80, was selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers' 2022* list of Best Lawyers in America in real estate law.

**REUNION YEAR**

**81** Dr. Barbara (Koplin) White, Nurs '81, was appointed assistant dean of nursing at Indiana University South Bend in June 2021, after serving as interim assistant dean for 2½ years. White earned an M.S.N. from Bethel College in Mishawaka, Ind., in 2008 and a doctorate in nursing from Indiana University in 2016.

**REUNION YEAR**

**82** Regina A. Dixon-Reeves, Jour '82, was named inaugural vice provost for diversity, inclusion and equity and director of the Center for Inclusion and Diversity at the University of San Diego in August 2021.

**Martha S. (Johnson) Manno**, Nurs '82, co-authored "Collaboration Between a School Nurse Task Force and the Local Health Department in Illinois: Development of a COVID-19 Toolkit," an online article in the National Association of School Nurses' journal, *School Nurse*.



## ROAD LESS TRAVELED

After reading *A Walk in the Woods* — Bill Bryson’s tale of hiking the Appalachian Trail with a friend — **Harvey Dennenberg**, Arts ’63, decided “that if these two older and somewhat overweight guys could do it, I could too.” He section-hiked all 2,193.1 miles of the trail over a 13-year period, finishing in Pennsylvania in September 2021, a few months after his 80th birthday. Dennenberg, known as “GrandPa Walking,” shares lessons from the trail in *Maine’s Appalachian Trail — How Seniors Made Section Hiking Easier*, due from Dorrance Publishing in May. He hopes to inspire others to follow in his footsteps.



**83 Sheila A. (Miller) Baker**, Nurs ’83, was appointed bureau chief of long-term care at the Illinois Department of Public Health.

**Michael C. Harms**, Eng ’83, received the Johnson Controls Chairman’s Award in 2017 for his team’s innovative approach to a safety restraint system on rooftops and freestanding equipment.

**84 Gregory E. Masucci**, Bus Ad ’84, received the Good Neighbor Award from the National Association of Realtors. Masucci established a farm program four years ago that employs intellectually and developmentally disabled teens and young adults as growers.

**85 Steve K. Bertrand**, Jour ’85, launched *Chicago’s Afternoon News with Steve Bertrand* on WGN Radio in September 2021. He’s been at the station for more than 30 years and was named to its Walk of Fame in 2015.

**Timothy Karp**, Bus Ad ’85, joined Milwaukee-based Max Weiss Co. as controller.

REUNION YEAR

**87 Rev. Michael S. Bayard, S.J.**, Arts ’87, joined Seattle University’s Center for Jesuit Education as Jesuit assistant for pastoral and spiritual outreach. He also works as chaplain at the Jesuit Restorative Justice Initiative Northwest.

**Fred Bricca**, Jour ’87, is an international pilot for Delta Air Lines. He flies the Airbus A330 and is based at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

**Patricia (Clifton) Smith**, Law ’87, was named general counsel of Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Mich., in June 2021.

**88 Jean (Crnkovich) Beatty**, Nurs ’88, was recognized as a Top Producer in Real Estate for a variety of local publications, including *Washington’s Best of 2021*, *Northern Virginia Magazine* and *Arlington Magazine*. She also surpassed her goal of \$30 million in sales volume for 2021. Beatty is licensed in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia and has been a Top Producer of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors Multi-million Dollar Sales Club since 2015.

**Lisa (Prodoehl) Reardon**, Bus Ad ’88, is CEO and chairman of OwnersEdge Inc., and was named the 2021 Don Richards Leadership Award winner by the Waukesha County Business Alliance. Reardon was honored based on her strategic vision that’s guided OwnersEdge through a series of acquisitions and focuses on involving team members in the leadership process.

**89 Michael Baxendale**, CJPA ’89, was inducted into the Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame. Baxendale has been the

co-host of the long-running *Bax & O’Brien* morning radio show at WAQY in Springfield, Mass., since 1995. See also “Greater Good,” p. 35.

**Christina M. (Tolentino) Stoll**, Comm ’89, received diamond-level Certified Trade Show Marketer credentials. The CTSM designation is awarded by *Exhibitor* in affiliation with Northern Illinois University Outreach and reflects adherence to the highest educational standards of trade show and event marketing. A lifelong resident of the Greater Milwaukee area, Stoll has worked in face-to-face marketing and communications management with Fortune 500 companies such as GE Healthcare and Rockwell Automation. She is a consultant with HD Supply, a Home Depot company.

REUNION YEAR

**91 Bernadette Gillick**, Arts ’91, PT ’93, received the 2021 Mentorship Award from the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine. The award recognizes an individual who is an active member of the AACPD and who has demonstrated outstanding leadership mentoring trainees and colleagues in the field of childhood-onset disabilities. Her focus is on the contribution and impact of mentoring to improve services and care, promote professional education and/or promote research for children with disabilities.

**Dan Richlen**, Bus Ad ’91, was named director of brand marketing at Robert Bosch Tool Corp. in Mount Prospect, Ill. He resides in Chicago.

**Michael Yang**, Grad ’91, ’03, was named senior vice president of research and development at PDI in Woodcliff Lake, N.J.



# THE GREATER GOOD

## MARATHON MAN

**MICHAEL BAXENDALE**  
CJPA ’89

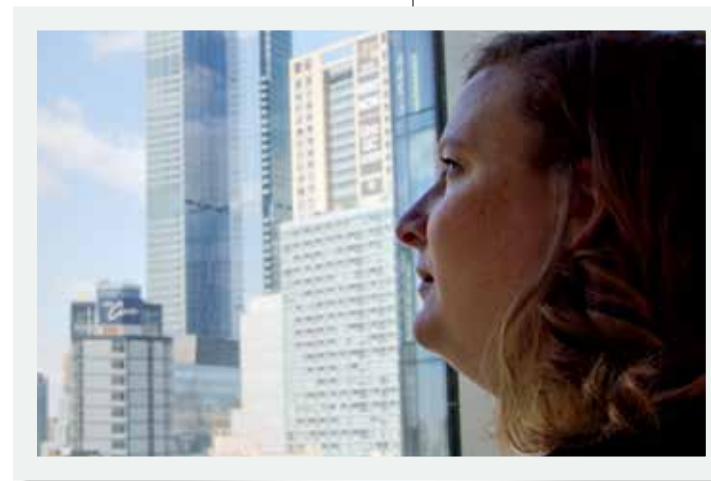
Waking people up and getting their days started are part of Mike Baxendale’s job description as longtime morning host on WAQY-FM in Springfield, Massachusetts. So is pulling a couple of all-nighters as emcee of the 52-hour broadcast that powers the annual Bax & O’Brien Mayflower Marathon food drive. Baxendale’s face — or voice, rather — has become synonymous with the event, now in its 28th year, that typically fills multiple 48-foot trailers. But he gets his drive — and will to stay awake — from those behind the scenes. Many of the volunteers have benefited from a local food pantry in the past. “There’s a great deal of humanity in their desire to help. It’s not about patting yourself on the back, but what happens after that.”

— ALY PROUTY, COMM ’19



## DAILY DIFFERENCE

Finding herself at the epicenter of the pandemic in April 2020, as director of disease control emergency preparedness at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, **Kathleen Blaney**, Nurs '09, led teams that responded quickly with life-saving plans. Featured in *American Nurse Heroes*, a video co-produced by the American Nurses Association, Blaney calls nursing exciting because one can work in “so many different spheres,” from bedside to a city of 8.6 million people. She and other responders were recognized in 2020 by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) for going “above and beyond in serving their neighbors.”



REUNION YEAR

**92 Sara J. (Sojka) Smith**, Arts '92, had been teaching chemistry at Creighton Prep in Omaha, Neb., since 2013. In 2020, she transitioned to her current role as director of student activities, overseeing more than 70 student clubs. Smith and her husband, Paul, have three children.

**Maximiliano J. Trujillo**, Arts '92, was appointed rule of law officer at the American Bar Association International Law Section and serves as a member of the section's council for the 2020-2021 term. He lives in Bethesda, Md.

**93 Javier Alvarez**, Eng '93, serves as founder and president at Cairn Collective in Milwaukee.

**Angie (Choy) Edwards**, Grad '93, is vice president and chief financial officer at HGA. Edwards has more than 25 years of experience in corporate and operational finance with expertise in financial planning and analysis, commercial business support, strategic planning, mergers and acquisitions, process improvement and shared services management. She's held finance leadership

positions with best-in-class professional services, manufacturing and Fortune 500 companies.

**Mike Martin**, Arts '93, was elected president of the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders, a national association for current and aspiring psychology leaders working for the Veterans Affairs health care system. He will serve one year as president-elect and one year as president.

**94 Jeff Bahr, M.D.**, Arts '94, is chief medical group officer and president of the Advocate Aurora Medical Group at Advocate Aurora Health in Milwaukee. Bahr oversees operations for more than 3,600 physicians and nearly 2,000 advanced practice clinicians for the largest nonprofit health care organization in both Illinois and Wisconsin. He is also accountable for Advocate Aurora Health's Research Institute and academic programs. He has practiced general internal medicine since 2001.

**Nicholas A. Celozzi**, CJPA '94, directed and wrote the 2022 film *The Class*, starring Anthony Michael Hall, Hannah Kepple and Charlie Gillespie.

**Dr. Perry R. Rettig**, Grad '94, published two books in 2021: *The Quantum University* and *Enrollment Management* (Rowman & Littlefield). He retired as vice president at Piedmont University in Georgia, is a community contributor for *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and has a monthly column for *The Northeast Georgian*.

REUNION YEAR

**96 Josh B. Fleming**, Bus Ad '96, Law '00, a partner in Quarles & Brady's Indianapolis office, was named national chair of the firm's product liability practice group.

REUNION YEAR

**97 Erika L. Brown**, Arts '97, started a new job as the human resources generalist for talent management at MRA in Waukesha, Wis.

**David R. Gee**, Grad '97, founded Hello Digital Ed, an educational technology startup, in January 2021. The company is based in Mequon, Wis., and also has an office in Santa Monica, Calif.

**Michael Malik**, Bus Ad '97, began a new role in October 2021 as director of investments with Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. in San Francisco.

**Dr. Elizabeth C. Miller**, Grad '96, wrote *Extraction Ecologies and the Literature of the Long Exhaustion* (Princeton University Press, 2021). The book presents how literature of the British imperial world contended with the social and environmental consequences of industrial mining.

**Col. Jodelle (Melander) Schroeder**, Nurs '97, assumed duties as the chief nursing officer of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, in May 2021. LRMC is the evacuation hub for all military operations in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. It is also the largest military treatment facility and the only verified Level II trauma center outside the United States.

**98 Thomas J. Hayes**, Arts '98, joined the firm Aronberg Goldgehn Davis & Garmisa. Prior to joining the firm, he practiced commercial litigation with large firms in Chicago for more than 15 years.

**99 Jodi (Wagner) Drake**, Bus Ad '99, is the assistant principal at Nativity Prep Academy in San Diego. NPA is part of the NativityMiguel Network, which provides a



Spreading Marquette spirit comes naturally to Jim, Arts '89, and Tracy (Lynch) Ryan, CJPA '89, who hosted a group of enthusiastic Marquette alumni, parents, staff and friends to cheer on the men's basketball team at the Shriners Children's Charleston Classic in November. Beyond the stands, the couple champion student success through philanthropic support for endowed scholarship and experiential learning, and by sharing expertise with the President's Advisory Council and College of Business Administration Sales Excellence Advisory Board. As Chicago-region campaign chairs, the Ryans also create local momentum around annual giving by leading the *Time to Rise Windy City Challenge*, which resulted in significant new supporters last year alone.

From Chicago? Join the challenge! [marquette.edu/windy-city](http://marquette.edu/windy-city)

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## WHAT'S SHAKIN'?

Come home to Marquette!

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[marquette.edu/alumni](http://marquette.edu/alumni)

tuition-free education to middle schoolers who are low-income, first-generation college-bound students.

**00 Dr. Leslie M. Buckner**, Arts '00, Grad '02, completed her doctorate in health sciences in April 2021 and received the Qualitative Dissertation Award from the University of Indianapolis faculty for “It Takes a Village: Recruitment and Retention of Underrepresented Minority DPT Students.” She is employed as a therapy manager at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago.

**JoEllen (Gielow) Burdue**, Arts '00, was promoted to senior director of communications and media relations at Milwaukee School of Engineering.

**Cmdr. Heidi Marie (Tschamp) Gizaw**, Eng '00, was promoted to commander, U.S. Navy, in 2017.

REUNION YEAR

**01 LaShonda N. (Winton) Hill**, Comm '01, was promoted to vice president of human resources for Colectivo Coffee Roasters in June 2021.

REUNION YEAR

**02 Gaelen (Bell) Orgbon**, Comm '02, was promoted to senior vice president, content services at The Motion Agency, located in Chicago.

**03 Heather (Susnik) D'Anca**, Comm '03, with her husband, has launched [thesexsurvey.com](http://thesexsurvey.com), with the ultimate goal of decreasing suicide attempts linked to sexuality. The purpose of this research and educational project is to better understand how humans naturally have sex.

**Tara R. (Plewe) Devine**, Law '03, was sworn in as the second vice president of the Lake County, Ill.,



of public relations and strategic communications for Rockford University in Rockford, Ill.

♥ **Leah (Burg) McBurger**, Comm '07, and **David (McCumber) McBurger** wed Sept. 24, 2021, in a helicopter over the Las Vegas strip. They also combined their surnames, Burg and McCumber, to make McBurger.

**08** ♣ **Julie A. (Warner) Carlson**, Comm '08, and **Chris Carlson**: daughter Annie May born May 5, 2021. She joins siblings Lucy and Luke.

**James J. Morrissey**, Arts '08, was promoted to partner at Pilgrim Christakis LLP, a financial services litigation firm based in Chicago. Morrissey served as an associate there for six years, after beginning his career at the state appellate defender's office in Chicago.

♥ **David N. Strittmatter**, Comm '08, and **Melanie Stephen** wed on July 24, 2021, at St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo, N.Y. The wedding party included four alumni: **Patrick Van Milligen**, Bus Ad '08; **Michael Eoloff**, Bus Ad '08; **Tyler Zacharias**, Bus Ad '08; and **Roy Sadler**, H Sci '08. Other alumni in attendance included **Daniel Daitchman**, Bus Ad '07; **Sam Corbo**, Arts '08; **Chris Koppes**, Arts '08, Law '11; and **Pat Biernacki**, Bus Ad '08.

♣ **Meghan J. (Farmer) Wilkins**, Bus Ad '08, Grad '19, and **Justin E. Wilkins**, Bus Ad '08: son **Theodore James Wilkins** born Aug. 20, 2021. He weighed 9 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 inches long. He joins sister **Emilie**, 6, and brother **Joseph**, 2.

**09** **Kathleen Blaney**, Nurs '09, is director of disease control emergency preparedness at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, overseeing clinical operations

for the health department's COVID-19 response (see "Daily Difference," page 36).

♣ **Mollie Gengler**, Arts '09, and **Balamurugan Pandiyan**, Grad '11: daughter **Lydia Irene** born May 4, 2020.

♥ **Megan (Wagner) Legerski**, Bus Ad '09, and **Tucker Legerski** wed June 18, 2021, in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Megan works at the University of Alabama.

**10** **Dr. Jason J. Hallman**, Grad '10, was promoted to senior manager for the Collaborative Safety Research Center at Toyota Motor North America Research and Development in Ann Arbor, Mich. An occupant protection and injury biomechanics expert and co-leader for system safety research, Hallman serves as associate editor of the *SAE International Journal of Transportation Safety* and as a chairperson of the 2019 Annual Scientific Conference of the AAAM.

♣ **Kyle E. Parsons**, Comm '10, and **Lizzie Parsons**: son **Xavier Van Arthur** born Oct. 14, 2020.

♥ **Melanie (Harris) Shafer**, Bus Ad '10, and **Jeff Shafer**, Eng '09, wed Oct. 2, 2021, at St. Bernard Parish in Wauwatosa, Wis.

**Henry Thomas**, Arts '10, was named a NextGen Leader by the *Kansas City Business Journal*. The annual awards program recognizes 25 individuals making a difference and destined to leave their mark on the Kansas City business community. He works as an associate at the law firm of **Polsinelli** and is a member of the national Labor and Employment Practice Group.

# POP QUIZ



## BUDDING PLAY-BY-PLAY ANNOUNCER DAN AVINGTON ALWAYS KNOWS THE SCORE.

When senior Dan Avington first saw Marquette's campus, he knew it was the place for him. He also knew he wanted to be a sportscaster. Wasting no time, the communication major was soon calling games for Marquette Athletics broadcasts. Then last summer, he was hired as an intern for the Muskegon (Michigan) Clippers, who compete in a collegiate-level minor league supported by Major League Baseball, and served as the team's sole radio voice for its 42-game season. Now, he's more certain than ever that professional sports broadcasting awaits him after graduation this spring.

**What drew you to Marquette?**  
I really like the tagline of the Jesuits, *Ad majorem Dei gloriam*, which is "For the greater glory of God." It's something I always strive for: I'm always looking for the greater good instead of losing myself in minute things.

**How did Marquette help you get on a path to pursue your passion for play-by-play?**  
I knew I could succeed here. My first week of freshman year I was doing play-by-play for a volleyball game; I got hands-on experience right away. I've learned a lot in my classes, but things I've been able to do outside the classroom give me an edge on the competition.

**Tell us about your time with the Muskegon Clippers.**  
It was a crazy experience. I did a three-hour broadcast by myself practically every night. It made me realize what I'm doing this for and how important it was for the parents who couldn't make it to games. A lot of the players were from out of state, so people turned to me to be their storyteller and update them on their kids' games. It was an awesome responsibility. Plus, baseball has always been my favorite sport, so this was really a dream come true.  
— Aly Prouty, Comm '19

## PLANET MARQUETTE

As ambassador to Luxembourg, former Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett has a key ally in **Mike Ansay**, Bus Ad '76, whose ties to the country run deep. His father hosted a 1960s visit to Milwaukee by the country's grand duke, and Ansay himself is an honorary consul and knight of Luxembourg. The CEO of the insurance agency Ansay & Associates was also instrumental in helping Gener8tor, a business accelerator co-founded by **Joe Kirgues**, Bus Ad '05, open its first European office in Luxembourg City. Luxembourgers, Ansay says, "are always looking for a good partner; we're connecting more dots."

Bar Association. She is the managing partner of the Illinois law firm Salvi Schostok & Pritchard in its Lake County office.

**04** ♣ **Meaghan M. (Cotter) Sherer**, Comm '04, and **Dan Sherer**: son **Emmett O'Neill Sherer** born March 23, 2021. He joins siblings **Delaney**, 9, **Maura**, 7, and **Nellie**, 5.

### REUNION YEAR

**06** ♣ **Megan M. (Kelleher) Brannon**, Arts '06, and **Patrick T. Brannon**, Eng '07: daughter **Maura Grace** born May 4, 2021. She joins brothers **Aidan**, 7, and **Declan**, 2, as well as sister **Ciara**, 5.

### REUNION YEAR

**07** ♣ **Kathryn (Ostrowski) Biwer**, Arts '07, and **Tyson Biwer**: son **Holden Richard** born in March 2021. He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce.

**Sylvester Cutler**, Arts '07, was appointed director of admissions and financial aid at Greenhills School in Ann Arbor, Mich., in July 2021.

**Bridget (Kagan) Jennison**, Comm '07, was named director



FORGING CONNECTIONS  
**SECOND ACT**

Coppersmith Sara Dahmen, Comm '05, embraces change as she nods to tradition.

BY ALYSSA DANIGELIS

Sara Dahmen polishes the copper pot she has crafted by hand in her shop in Port Washington, Wisconsin. The process requires donning protective gear and wiping melted food-safe tin on the pot while holding it over a blazing fire. She appears to be the only woman in the country building copper cookware: "If there's somebody else out there doing this, I really want to meet them."

A latecomer to metalworking, Dahmen first worked in marketing and advertising. Then she moved into wedding planning. Her events company found success quickly, but a decade and three children later, she was ready for a change. She threw herself into indie publishing, earning multiple awards for her fiction. Then, while researching a novel about pioneers, Dahmen became fascinated with early American cookware.

Initially focused on distribution, she launched House Copper & Cookware in 2015. But when fabricators delivered the pots, Dahmen wanted to be more than an observer. She apprenticed with master tinsmith Bob Bartelme in nearby West Bend, learning how to craft pots using hand and power tools, and flames.

"Every time I decide to try something new, I feel like I'm a twisty-tie and I'm readjusting my kinks, turning myself into a different shape," says Dahmen, who continues writing, including 2020's *Copper, Iron, and Clay: A Smith's Journey* from William Morrow/HarperCollins. She credits communication studies with helping her gain access to the metalsmithing world, make valuable connections and become versatile. "Still, it's on you just to say, 'Yes, I'm going to try this.'"

REUNION YEAR

**11** ♥ **Maggie (Rudersdorf) Convy**, Arts '11, and David L. Convy wed in Vail, Colo., on Nov. 20, 2021. They live in Denver, where Maggie is a registered nurse manager with Children's Hospital Colorado and David is a territory sales manager for Syngenta.

**Jacqueline K. (Oraedu) Edwards**, H Sci '11, was crowned the 2021 International Mrs. U.S.A. on September 12, 2021, in New York.

✦ **Kelly A. Gaughan**, Arts '11, and Ashley Gaughan: daughter Dillon Rae Gaughan born Aug. 30, 2021.

♥ **Erin (Jones) Thode**, Arts '11, and **Andrew Thode**, Arts '10, wed on May 22, 2021, at Old St. Patrick's Church in Chicago surrounded by family and friends. Erin and Andrew met in 2009 as friends working on Capitol Hill through The Les Aspin Center for Government in Washington, D.C. Five years later, the two reconnected in Chicago and started dating.

REUNION YEAR

**12** **Paul R. Gaus**, Bus Ad '12, was honored by Super Lawyers as a 2021 Northern California Rising Star.

✦ **Sophia (Sanders) McAnally**, Comm '12, and **Jonathan McAnally**, Eng '13: son Bennett Leo McAnally born July 28, 2021.

✦ **Allison C. (Prosen) Mohorek**, H Sci '12, PA '13, and **Matthew R. Mohorek**, H Sci '12: daughter Katherine Lee Mohorek born June 18, 2021. She joins sister Jane and brother Thomas.

**13** ♥ **Andria (Rohde) Biber**, Nurs '19, and **Benjamin C.**

**Biwer**, Comm '13, wed on July 1, 2021, in Hartland, Wis.

**Amanda K. Frank**, Comm '13, was promoted to director of commercial partnerships at Universal Music Group.

✦ **Brianna (Basta) Shernell**, Arts '13, and Tyler Shernell: son Leonardo Matthew Shernell born Oct. 25, 2021, in Milwaukee.

**14** **Dr. Caitlin (Fortuna) Brooks**, H Sci '14, PT '16, a Red Cross volunteer in Wiesbaden, Germany, was disembarking from a flight when a woman in front of her collapsed. Brooks used her Red Cross training to help save the woman's life. Brooks received the Certificate of Merit Lifesaving Award, the highest given by the Red Cross, for her actions.

♥ **Aaron J. (Ledesma) Earley-Ledesma**, Comm '14, and Tim (Earley) Earley-Ledesma wed Oct. 23, 2021, at the Historic Mankin Mansion in Richmond, Va. The couple was surrounded by family and friends, including a dozen Marquette alumni, the majority of whom first became friends during their freshman orientation in 2010.

**Cicely B. Hunter**, Arts '14, was named the public historian for the African American History Initiative at the nationally recognized Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis.

**15** **Sam T. Kissel**, Eng '15, was promoted to senior office engineer for all construction contracts pertaining to the \$2 billion southwest light rail project in Minneapolis.

♥ **Hilary (Hungerford) Wright**, Arts '15, and Alex Wright wed on Aug. 7, 2021.

REUNION YEAR

**16** ♥ **Phil Batzner**, Comm '16, and **Meredith (Behm) Batzner**, PA '20, wed Aug. 28, 2021, at Bay Shore Lutheran Church in Whitefish Bay, Wis.

♥ **Megan E. (Dougherty) Fanning**, Bus Ad '16, and **Brendan P. Fanning**, Bus Ad '16, wed Aug. 21, 2021. Megan is the daughter of Annie (Calteaux), Bus Ad '89, and Tom Dougherty, Bus Ad '89. More than 60 Marquette alumni were in attendance.

**Joel Kretz**, Bus Ad '16, was promoted to manager of global development finance at The Wendy's Co.

♥ **Devon J. (Olsen) Lacy**, Ed '16, and **Mitchell Lacy**, Arts '15, wed July 1, 2021, in Hawaii. The Lacy's celebrated with their friends and family, including many Marquette alumni, on July 24, 2021, in Wauwatosa, Wis.

**Molly Schuld**, Grad '16, has gone from classroom to Fortune 500 company, while keeping community impact front and center. As the STEM programs

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Jackie Lewis**, Arts '60, has committed a new \$2 million gift to support Marquette's Les Aspin Center for Government in Washington, D.C., where nearly 3,000 students have studied public policy. Lewis' gift will create the Rev. Timothy J. O'Brien Endowed Directorship, which honors the current director and increases research and equipment resources, plus student travel and new curriculum. Lewis and her late husband, Robert, previously gave Marquette a student residence building and renovated a historic brownstone where classes are held. Lewis commends "the countless leaders" who pass through the center's doors.





**TOGETHER AGAIN**

After seeing little of each other for 50 years, 11 former residents of Stewart Hall (once located on the Central Mall) planned a trip to Chicago's Wrigley Field for a Cubs-Brewers game. They shared beers, but didn't "re-create college capers," says Carl Lundquist, Arts '68. From left to right: **Peter Maloney**, Arts '70; **Gerry Waldron**, Arts '68; **V.J. Barry**, Arts '69; **Tom Kehoe**, Bus Ad '68; **Tom Donovan**, Arts '69; **Jim Donnelly**, Arts '68; **Carl Lundquist**; and **Andy Curtin**, Arts '68. Not shown: **Dennis Ragosa**, Bus Ad '68; **Scott Sayer**, Bus Ad '68; and **John Finn**, Arts '67, who passed away.

and outreach specialist at Northwestern Mutual, she is helping build Milwaukee's tech-ed ecosystem.

**REUNION YEAR**

**17♥ Kayce (Scherzer) Steinhart**, Nurs '17, and **Jacob Steinhart**, Eng '18, wed July 24, 2021, at Church of the Gesu surrounded by family and friends. The couple met at Marquette.

**Ryan S. Sullivan, O.D.**, Arts '17, received a doctorate of optometry at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in May 2021.

♥ **Katie (Tuchel) Torruco**, H Sci '17, and **Enrique Torruco**, Comm '15, Grad '17, wed Oct. 2, 2021, in Milwaukee. Many Marquette co-workers and alumni were there to celebrate, including best man, **Sam Hernandez**, Arts '15, and maids of honor, **Kara Sandquist**, Arts '17, and **Dr. Mariah Frank**, H Sci '17, PT '19.

**18 Michael P. Anders**, Bus Ad '18, has completed the licensing requirements to practice as a certified public accountant. He is a member of

the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants.

**Cole Blazer**, Eng '18, was selected as vice president of the M Club, the athletic alumni association of Marquette Athletics, which annually supports athletes and programs.

**Chris Czarnicki**, Arts '18, was named to *ACHR News*' 2021 Top 40 Under 40 HVACR Professionals as government relations manager for the Air Conditioning Contractors of America.

♥ **Ryan Kaestner**, Eng '18, and **Stephanie (Harte) Kaestner**, Comm '17, wed July 3, 2021, at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center. Many Marquette alumni were in attendance.

**Emelia Karkazis, D.D.S.**, H Sci '18, Dent '21, has begun a three-year orthodontics residency in Chicago.

**Devinne Love**, Comm '18, was named account executive at Beacon Hill Staffing Group in Chicago.

♥ **Nicholas S. Schieldt**, H Sci '18, and **Alexa (Thornton) Schieldt** wed July 3, 2021. The couple are high school sweethearts who met in Janesville, Wis., at Joseph A. Craig High School and started dating on July 2, 2013.

**Christiana (Gorchynsky) Trapani**, Grad '18, purchased the Door County Candle Co. in June 2021. Her husband, **Dominic J. Trapani**, Comm '14, helps her run the business.

**19 Dr. Mark Bouwmeester**, H Sci '19, PT '21, was named assistant football athletic trainer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Jonathan Jean-Baptiste**, Arts '19, was named legislative correspondent in the Washington, D.C., office of U.S. Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.). His policy areas are judiciary, economy and health care.

**Aly Prouty**, Comm '19, was named digital producer at Spectrum News 1 Wisconsin. She is responsible for creating and managing content for the Spectrum News app, social media channels and website.

**Tara Schumal**, Comm '19, was named the crewing admin for Fox Sports in Los Angeles.

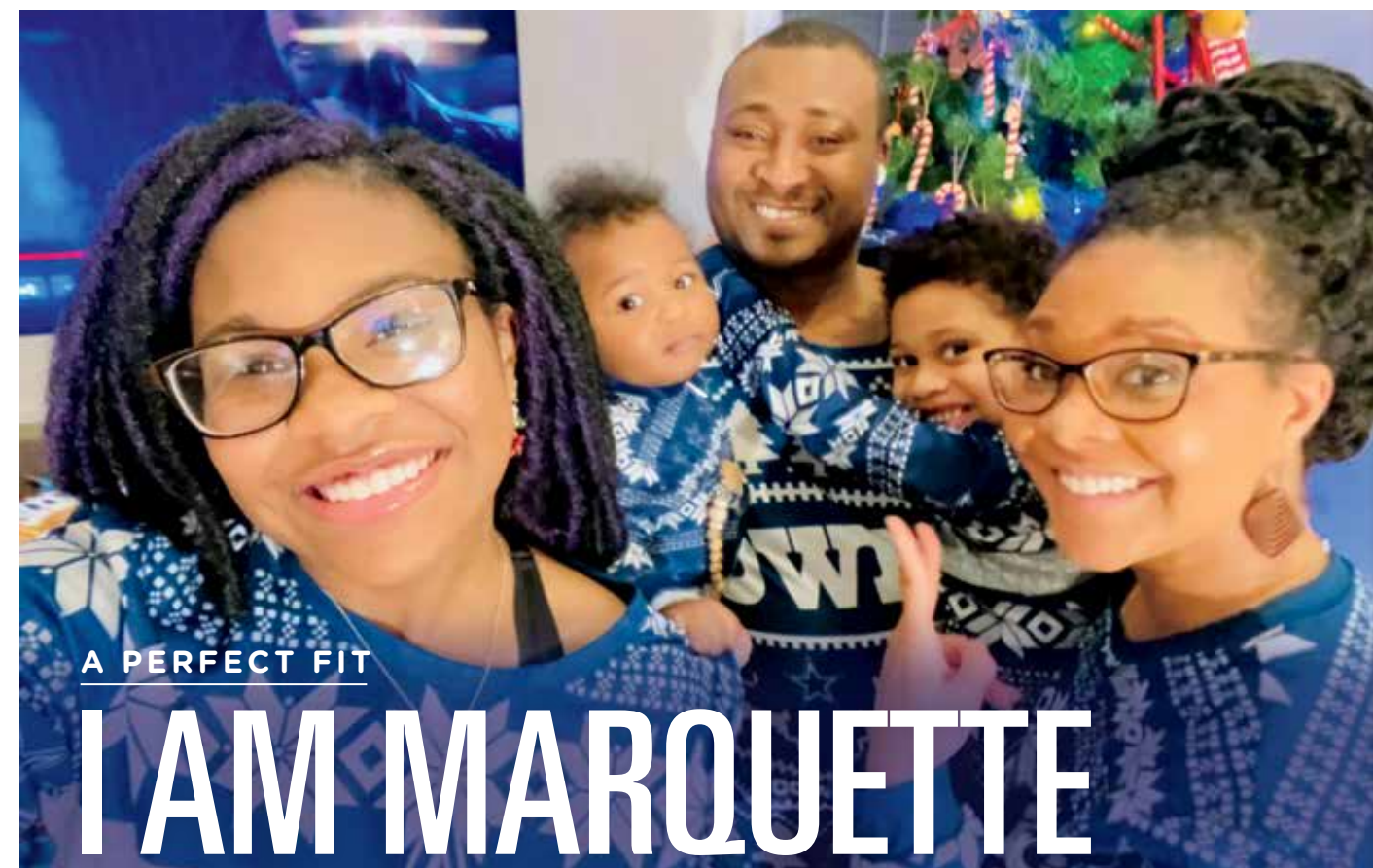
**Mallory Winkler**, Comm '19, Grad '20, was named digital account coordinator at Gilt Edge Soccer Marketing in Chicago.

**REUNION YEAR**

**20♥ Alejandra J. (Logan) Poquette**, H Sci '20, PA '21, and **Adam Poquette**, H Sci '20, wed July 17, 2021. Adam is currently in graduate school at the Medical College of Wisconsin in the anesthesiology assistant program. Alejandra started her PA career at Children's Wisconsin. They met their freshman year in Dr. Kemp's biology class.

**REUNION YEAR**

**21 Adiah Balz**, H Sci '21, is working for Bell Ambulance and hoping to apply to a physician assistant studies program in a few years.



A PERFECT FIT  
**I AM MARQUETTE**

Sabrina (r) and her husband Chermond Thomas, with children Jonae, Akai and Cree.

They put their trust in God to overcome adoption obstacles and break down stigmas.

BY SABRINA FOULKS-THOMAS, BUS AD '19, AS TOLD TO TRACY STAEDTER

**I was nursing our son Cree, in between dozing and being awake, when I heard a voice say, "You need to adopt." I felt in my heart it was the Holy Spirit.**

Chermond and I had considered adoption in 2014, after caring for two brothers who were 2 years and 6 months old. We wanted to adopt them, but they returned to their birth mom.

After I told Chermond about God's words, we spoke to an adoption agency. The cost was going to be around \$45,000, so they suggested we fundraise. Chermond and I are private. We're from families that don't believe in asking others for money. We also come from a community that frowns upon giving up a child for adoption. A grandmother or aunt will usually step in instead.

But we decided to ask for help. We added a

fundraising post to our adoption webpage and made a Facebook video. An immediate swarm of people supported us. An old high school friend decided to donate \$40,000. That was the pivotal point for our families, who had doubts, to say, "This is bigger than us."

After a couple of matches fell through, I got a message from the mom of the two boys we wanted to adopt in 2014. She had been following our fundraiser story and, while waiting to have a C-section in the hospital, called to say she wanted us to adopt her baby. God had brought things full circle.

Akai was born on Feb. 17, 2021. He is the most perfect fit for our family. Since then, we've had conversations with other Black families about adoption to help break down the stigma — to pour out our testimony and to glorify God.



# 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** Katie (Tuchel), H Sci '17, and Enrique Torruco, Comm '15, Grad '17; **2** Katie (Mills), Law '17, and Ryan Ybarra, Law '14; **3** Penelope, daughter of Lexi (Lozniak), Comm '13, Grad '20, and Jacob Schindwein, H Sci '13, Dent '16; **4** Jacqueline Borzillo, Comm '16, Grad '18, and Anthony Ball, Ed '17, Grad '20; **5** Lincoln, son of Matt, Comm '12, and Megan Hetrick; **6** Meghan (Arnold), Comm '02, and Sam Pederson; **7** Margaret (Kates), Nurs '18, and Matthew Waldoch, Arts '14; **8** Leonardo, son of Brianna (Basta), Arts '13, and Tyler Shernell; **9** Maggie (Rudersdorf), Arts '11, and David Convy; **10** Leah (Burg) McBurger, Comm '07, and David (McCumber) McBurger; **11** Megan (Dougherty), Bus Ad '16, and Brendan Fanning, Bus Ad '16; **12** Sydney Bradley, H Sci '18, and Andrew Depies, H Sci '18, PT '20; **13** Jack, son of Jennifer (LaChance), Comm '03, and Robert Michel; **14** Maura, daughter of Megan (Kelleher), Arts '06, and Patrick Brannon, Eng '07; **15** Melanie (Harris), Bus Ad '10, and Jeff Shafer, Eng '09; **16** Bennett, son of Sophia (Sanders), Comm '12, and Jonathan McAnally, Eng '13; **17** Annie, daughter of Julie (Warner), Comm '08, and Chris Carlson; with siblings Luke and Lucy; **18** Theodore, son of Meghan (Farmer), Bus Ad '08, Grad '19, and Justin Wilkins, Bus Ad '08; **19** Katherine, daughter of Allison (Prosen), H Sci '12, PA '13, and Matthew Mohorek, H Sci '12; **20** Megan Fagalde, H Sci '17, and Eric Balle, H Sci '17; **21** Emmett, son of Meaghan (Cotter), Comm '04, and Dan Sherer; with siblings Nellie, Maura and Delaney; **22** Rae, daughter of Kelly, Arts '11, and Ashley Gaughan; **23** Mathias, son of Marcelino Marenco, Dent '94; **24** Louis, son of Lindsay (Crupper), Comm '05, and Tim Haake; **25** Aaron (Ledesma), Comm '14, and Tim (Earley) Earley-Ledesma; **26** Alejandra (Logan), H Sci '20, PA '21, and Adam Poquette, H Sci '20; **27** Devon (Olsen), Ed '16, and Mitch Lacy, Arts '15; **28** Meredith (Behm), PA '20, and Phil Batzner, Comm '16; **29** Kayce (Scherzer), Nurs '17, and Jacob Steinhart, Eng '18; **30** Stephanie (Harte), Comm '17, and Ryan Kaestner, Eng '18; **31** Nicholas, H Sci '18, and Alexa (Thornton) Schieldt; **32** Katie (Simet), Arts '06, and Brian Braunreiter



IN MEMORIAM

**1930s** Lester F. Berns, Arts '39

**1940s** Harriet M. (Driessel) Andersen, Nurs '40; Gladys (Walleman) Gruenberg, Arts '40; Alfred L. Mozina, Eng '43; Boris J. Ragent, Eng '44; Merla (Feldstein) Charne, Arts '46; Margaret (Geeck) Knorr, Arts '46; Marcella (Wamser) Means, Arts '46; Jacquelyne P. Coakley, Nurs '47; Jacqueline (Gonyea) Jaster, Dent Hy '47; Rosalie (Berenson) Altshul, Nurs '48; Thomas J. Gardner, Law '48, Grad '74; Worth W. Henderson, Med '48; Jeanne L. (Desmond) Kallies, Arts '48; Carol J. (Gloudeaman) Pitterle, Nurs '48; Jeanne E. (Flock) Sherburne, Arts '48; Dorothy J. (Vidas) Villard, Arts '48; Thomas L. Voros, Eng '48; Arthur J. Grochowski, Eng '49; Edward A. Maciejewski, Bus Ad '49; Mary E. (Stark) Mellinger, Arts '49; Catherine M. (Dutton) Moran, Arts '49; Shirley A. (Atkinson) Murray, Arts '49; Alice M. (Bach) Palmer, Dent Hy '49; Gilce R. Richardson, Eng '49; Kent J. Riley, Eng '49; Norbert M. Vogl, Eng '49; Janet V. (Van Ess) Vredenbregt, Arts '49; Grace L. (David) Wimmer, Dent Hy '49; Gerald C. Woythal, Eng '49

**1950s** Lillian P. (Gossner) Fabian, Bus Ad '50; James W. Krueger, Bus Ad '50; Edward M. Resler, Bus Ad '50; Carol (Grayson) Schmidt, Nurs '50; Gerald W. Van Hyle, Arts '50; Melvin J. Witte, Arts '50, Law '55; Richard L. Berdelle, Arts '51, Law '53; Thomas P. Ehr, Arts '51, Law '53; Bernard C. Fichtenkort, Eng '51; John T. Kowalsky, Bus Ad '51; Allen B. Kuhn, Bus Ad '51; Robert J. Mazurek, Bus Ad '51; Sue A. (Eggleston) Petry, Nurs '51; Joseph R. Rotunno, Eng '51; Richard M. Schmandt, Arts '51; William F. Waite, Bus Ad '51; Thomas J. Balistrieri, Arts '52; Howard C. Cushing, Bus Ad '52; Marion A. (Burger) Gitz, Arts '52;

John A. Graeber, Arts '52, Law '54, Grad '59; Jeanne M. (Conrad) Meyer, Sp '52; Patricia A. (Sullivan) Mossey, Dent Hy '52; Alfredo R. Ramirez, Bus Ad '52; James B. Strenski, Jour '52; Patricia J. (Flanders) Wibbenmeyer, Arts '52; Thomas J. Bartol, Eng '53; Leonard J. Boler, Eng '53; Joseph E. Boyle, Arts '53, Law '59; Patrick T. Buckley, Arts '53; Rosemary T. (Verhalen) Cummings, Arts '53; Lois D. (Richard) Guzik, Nurs '53; Alfred A. Heon, Bus Ad '53, Law '59; Rita M. (Igielski Delmore) Jirikovec, Nurs '53; Jacob R. Larosche, Eng '53; Marian J. (Ibson) Rognsvoog, Nurs '53; Norbert L. Schurhoff, Bus Ad '53; Richard L. Sell, Dent '53; Herb W. Waraczynski, Bus Ad '53; Scott J. Koehler, Arts '54; Edward S. Minor, Dent '54; James A. Moriarty, Med '54; Dolores I. (Rohrer) Ohmes, Jour '54; Francis E. Raue, Bus Ad '54; Richard J. Richter, Dent '54; William A. Schroettner, Dent '54; Frank R. Vukovich, Dent '54; Harris B. Weller, Bus Ad '54; Susan A. (Noyes) Apker, Jour '55; George J. Barry, Med '55; Philip A. Bleicher, Dent '55; Howard F. Boese, Grad '55; Norbert E. Gross, Bus Ad '55; Francis D. Hagen, Eng '55; Francis J. Kysela, Dent '55; James J. Miles, Bus Ad '55; Carol A. (Smessaert) Nee, Arts '55; Patricia A. Pembroke, Arts '55; Joseph M. Peters, Bus Ad '55; Lorelei B. Schneider, Arts '55; Robert J. Schwaab, Bus Ad '55; John D. Steichen, Bus Ad '55; Stephen A. Behrndt, Bus Ad '56; Fred J. Bettinger, Jour '56; Gretchen A. (Figge) Connolly, Arts '56, Nurs '91; Thomas B. Davis, Med '56; Frances M. (Talaska) Fischbach, Nurs '56, Grad '71; William R. Goldammer, Bus Ad '56; Eugene C. Gross, Eng '56; Doris J. (Kreutzer) Haas, Arts '56; Robert A. Heinzen, Eng '56; James F. Kegel, Eng '56, Med '66; James F. Major, Sp '56; Gerald L. Mehlos, Dent '56; Florence (Pierzchalski) Repinski, Nurs '56; Anthony J. Rio, Arts '56, Dent '62; Clark B. Vilar, Arts '56; Norman H. Voissem, Eng '56; Donald J. Voith, Eng '56; William L. Weber, Arts '56; Rev. William H. Bowles, Bus Ad '57; Robert J. Casanova, Bus Ad '57; Perry P. Cohn, Dent '57; Joyce E. Dorszynski Leffler, Arts '57; Richard P. Douglas, Bus Ad '57; John H. Gesser, Eng '57; William J. Gress, Arts '57; Julie (Ziegman) Hood, PT '57; Ronald F. Kalupa, Eng '57; Marilyn J. (Busch) Klein, Arts

'57; Betsy E. (Schaettle) Krickhan, Nurs '57; Mary M. (Mistele) Little, Arts '57; James B. Litzau, Eng '57; John P. Miller, Bus Ad '57, Law '59; Albert B. Slattery, Bus Ad '57; Catherine A. (Rueber) Smith, Arts '57; William L. Toothaker, Dent '57; Gerald H. Tucker, Jour '57; Judith A. (Johnson) Welch, Arts '57; Luz O. Aragon, Grad '58; Mary J. (Cuff) Arbisi, Nurs '58; James J. Bakula, Bus Ad '58; Philip R. Bouressa, Dent '58; Patricia M. Cavanaugh, Arts '58; Michael J. Dunn, Arts '58, Med '62; Thomas E. Durham, Med '58; Anthony S. Inzerillo, Arts '58; William P. Orth, Bus Ad '58; Robert J. Peters, Bus Ad '58; Caesar Prospero, Arts '58; Mary L. (McNamara) Purtell, Arts '58; Charles L. Rushman, Eng '58; Mary M. (Grace) Rystad-Smith, Sp '58; Polly (Peikert) Strow, Nurs '58; Norbert S. Theine, Eng '58; James A. Volkman, Dent '58; Thomas L. Wehrle, Bus Ad '58; Robert D. Carver, Bus Ad '59, Grad '67; Monica C. (Devine) Goller, Sp '59; Leo N. Heiting, Eng '59, Grad '64; George G. Kaprelian, Dent '59; Marilyn M. (Monahan) Kuptz, Arts '59; James R. Lindroth, Arts '59, Grad '60; Gary W. McFadden, Dent '59; Anthony J. Mixan, Arts '59; Paul A. Pakalski, Bus Ad '59, Law '62; Raymond L. Pfarr, Bus Ad '59; Mary Jo (Daley) Szama, Nurs '59; Thomas A. Sprink, Eng '59; James F. Stummer, Dent '59; Friedrich R. Weber, Arts '59, Grad '66; Adolph Y. Wilburn, Grad '59

**1960s** Daniel W. Baertlein, Eng '60; Dean Elliott, Arts '60; Sr. Georgene M. Faust, Arts '60, Grad '63; John Greenya, Arts '60; Peter J. Heibold, Arts '60; John C. Horter, Bus Ad '60; Mary (Dowling) Muth, Nurs '60; Robert E. O'Leary, Arts '60; John F. Owens, Arts '60; Frank R. Reginelli, Bus Ad '60; Franz S. Reisch, Eng '60; Ronald G. Schmidt, Dent '60; Douglas J. Smith, Bus Ad '60; David J. Boulay, Bus Ad '61; Patricia B. (Schommer) Capek, Arts '61; Patrick J. Ford, Arts '61; Richard E. Fredricks, Arts '61, Grad '64; Sr. Lucia M. Gibbons, Grad '61; Janice M. (Johnson) Giese, Dent Hy '61; Dennis E. Gruse, Jour '61; Merle W. Hauser, Eng '61; William D. Kaehny, Arts '61, Med '65; John L. Kapust, Dent '61; Donald R. Kojis, Arts '61; Sr. Mary M. Melko, Arts '61; Susan M. Neyer, Arts '61; Terry H. Ostermeier, Grad '61; A. Samuel Petersen,

PAUSE TO REFLECT



1

**What was it like coming back to lead the UCC?**

It was full of emotions. I grew up about a block away. My first job was here. To be able to come back as executive director, you think, “Are they serious?” You’re humbled. When you take it all in, the best way to summarize it is: “It’s a privilege.”

2

**What role did Marquette play in your journey?**

It’s where I went for grad school. I was very lucky in the professors I had — Dr. William Pink, Dr. Ellen Eckman. It was always about a sense of servant leadership — about others and going into a place to make sure you leave it better than when you entered.

3

**You’ve worked as a science teacher, director of instruction and now executive director at UCC. What’s your favorite part of your job?**

The best part is seeing the impact our programs have on individuals, families and the community as a whole. My first class of science students are now 32 or 33. They’re bringing their children back here. Some are employed at UCC, though they still can’t call me Laura. We’re colleagues, but it’s Ms. Gutiérrez. Really, it’s wonderful to see that impact and know the UCC will always be here.

**Leading where she started**

**LAURA GUTIÉRREZ, Grad '01**

Executive director, United Community Center

Born in Milwaukee to parents from Guadalajara, Mexico, Gutiérrez grew up in the Walker’s Point neighborhood and worked her first job at a nearby resource center for Hispanic families known as “The Spot on Seventh.” Decades later, that organization is the United Community Center, home to acclaimed charter schools, dependency counseling programs and senior services. And after serving as secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services in the administration of Gov. Scott Walker, Gutiérrez returned in 2019 to lead the UCC through its next chapters. — Stephen Filmanowicz

Dent '61; Susan A. (Dockendorff) **Thurber**, PT '61; Audrey (Fellows) **De Munck**, Grad '62, Grad '70; Kathleen G. (Schunk) **Graham**, Dent Hy '62; Peter T. **Hansen**, Arts '62, Med '67; Judith M. (Friederich) **Howden**, Arts '62; Ronald A. **King**, Bus Ad '62; James T. **Pawlich**, Dent '62; Joanne D. (Ament) **Peters**, PT '62; Sr. Alice C. **Reckamp**, Med Tech '62; Joanne M. (Ramsey) **Reinbold**, Bus Ad '62; Gordon H. **Schloemer**, Eng '62; James P. **Schuh**, Sp '62; James M. **Brennan**, Eng '63; Marilyn R. (Shaules) **Buckley**, PT '63; Rosalie J. (Hoffmann) **Cowdin**, Arts '63; Allen W. **Deprey**, Eng '63; John W. **Dreger**, Eng '63; Ronald M. **Du Plessis**, Arts '63; John D. **Fischer**, Eng '63; Michael W. **Fleming**, Bus Ad '63, Law '66; Josephine A. (Galka) **Herrmann**, Arts '63, Grad '67; Harry F. **Hibner**, Bus Ad '63, Grad '74; Ray C. **Johnston**, Arts '63; George P. **Nelson**, Eng '63; John M. **Rowan**, Bus Ad '63; Denis E. **Walsh**, Arts '63, Med '67; Richard L. **Adrian**, Arts '64; Mary Jo (Klapper) **Bichler**, Nurs '64, Grad '71; Howard J. **Cyr**, Grad '64; Rev. E. Thomas **Dewane**, Grad '64; Patricia (Scalzo) **Durand**, Dent Hy '64; Robert F. **Ellerbrock**, PT '64; James R. **Fuller**, Eng '64; James J. **Hellmich**, Bus Ad '64; Gerard J. **Hinckley**, Bus Ad '64; Ronald J. **Komarek**, Dent '64; Mary Ann (Lijewski) **Kozlowski**, Med Tech '64; James T. **Mellonig**, Arts '64, Dent '69; Stuart E. **Packer**, Arts '64; Kosmas S. **Pappas**, Dent '64; Carl J. **Raven**, Arts '64, Grad '70; John L. **Scully**, Bus Ad '64; Margaret M. (Selz) **Strother**, Arts '64; Paula J. (Koszuth) **Alderson**, Nurs '65; Thomas G. **Anders**, Arts '65; Sarah E. (Gray) **Bachrodt**, Arts '65; Sandra A. **Birkhauser**, Arts '65; Katherine A. **Buelow**, Arts '65, Grad '73; Dennis F. **Chiappetta**, Arts '65; Sarah J. (Gannon) **Cornell**, Dent Hy '65; Virginia C. (Smigelski) **Dugal**, Arts '65; Stephen C. **Elliott**, Arts '65, Med '69; Leo F. **Gildea**, Arts '65; Gary G. **Gscheidmeier**, Sp '65; John G. **Kraak**, Dent '65; Robert D. **Sims**, Eng '65; Trudy D. (Pike) **Wayne**, PT '65; Thomas R. **Wortham**, Arts '65; Beatrice H. (Henning) **Wurtz**, Grad '65; Thomas J. **App**, Arts '66; Kevin H. **Axe**, Jour '66; Timothy O. **Cowdin**, Law '66; Kathleen A. (Browne) **Doetzer**, Arts '66; Charles H. **Franckowiak**, Bus Ad '66; John F. **Morien**, Bus Ad '66, Grad '68; Gordon W. **Travis**, Arts '66;

Keith W. **Algozin**, Grad '67; Stephen W. **Burger**, Arts '67; John V. **Finn**, Arts '67; Robert J. **Foerster**, Med '67; Diane J. (Cervenka) **Foley**, Arts '67; Donald D. **Hinkle**, Bus Ad '67; Mary M. (Savage) **Schwertfeger**, Arts '67; Raymond J. **Sobczak**, Grad '67; George E. **Warren**, Dent '67; Richard T. **Ahearn**, Grad '68, '74; Jean A. (Hersman) **Banasiak**, Med Tech '68; Daniel F. **Boyce**, Grad '68; Richard J. **Firestone**, Bus Ad '68; Margaret H. (Will) **Gannon**, Arts '68; David A. **Hayford**, Bus Ad '68; George A. **Krall**, Eng '68; Donald J. Parker, Law '68; Lillian M. (Prehn) **Reseter**, Grad '68; John L. **Robison**, Arts '68; Gunars **Eidemanis**, Eng '69; Jerry J. **Gradisnik**, Bus Ad '69; Roger E. **Kentala**, Dent '69; Gregory S. **Konz-Krzyminski**, Arts '69; Charles J. **Macaluso**, Bus Ad '69; Mary B. (Barber) **Neustrom**, Sp '69; Mary Pat (Klein) **Pfeil**, Jour '69

**1970s** Daniel H. **Deeny**, Arts '70; Robert N. **Doornek**, Bus Ad '70; Robert K. **Hudson**, Arts '70; Delores J. (Jendrzewski) **Lascari**, Bus Ad '70; Michael E. **Lulling**, Arts '70; Maureen A. (O'Brien) **Maresca**, Nurs '70; James R. **Schwaab**, Eng '70; John D. **Spates**, Dent '70; Theresa M. (Smyth) **Burke**, Arts '71; Roger A. **Hedding**, Eng '71; James S. **Hickey**, Arts '71; Michael D. **Neville**, Jour '70; James R. **O'Brien**, Bus Ad '71, Law '73; Sharon A. (Baade) **Darnieder**, Jour '72; James G. **Fitzpatrick**, Bus Ad '72; John H. **Schumacher**, Dent '72; Theodore M. **Strong**, Grad '72; Joanne G. **Walther**, Dent Hy '72; Kathleen L. (Murray) **Buck**, Med Tech '73; Nancy A. **Hutchinson**, Jour '73; Nicholas A. **Marra**, Eng '73; Robert T. **Wilke**, Arts '73; Marilyn J. (Rossman) **Bartucci**, Nurs '74; Richard J. **Ceello**, Law '74; Daniel J. **Geisheker**, Sp '74; Robert J. **Hyndman**, Arts '74, Law '77; Terrence R. **McHugh**, Bus Ad '75; Margaret A. **Ruetz**, Dent Hy '75, '88; Thomas M. **Zorn**, Arts '75; William E. **Ewald**, Arts '76; Joseph W. **Fenton**, Jour '76; Stanley L. **Ho**, Eng '76; William P. **Jezo**, Eng '76; Kevin P. **O'Toole**, Arts '76; Catherine M. (Feldhausen) **Prevost**, Nurs '76; Dale W. **Robison**, Grad '76; Mark H. **Scholz**, Arts '76; James D. **Ahern**, Arts '77; Dennis E. **Hulen**, Bus Ad '77; Russell K. **Van Skike**, Arts '77, '79, Law '82; Nancy C. (Kolp) **Wilson**, Grad '77; Dennis P. **Dvorshak**, Bus Ad

'78, Grad '80; Stephen P. **Forrest**, Law '78; Susan S. (Sullivan) **Gies**, Nurs '78; Gloria C. (Ford) **Gilmer**, Grad '78; Michael A. **Luedke**, Arts '78; Paul E. **Rampson**, Grad '78; Paula M. (Biedlingmaier) **Salkin**, Arts '78; Mark A. **Sinotte**, Arts '78; Pamela L. (Perlick) **Bergum**, Grad '79; Martin N. **Hoffmann**, Eng '79; Bernadette D. (Liebl) **Kolbeck**, Nurs '79, Grad '83; Paul F. **Kostyniuk**, Eng '79

**1980s** Maureen E. **Monroe Barron**, Jour '80; Judith (Shiely) **King**, Grad '81; David T. **Taylor**, Grad '81; Richard A. **Weil**, Grad '81; Lisa A. (Lisowski) **Plumb**, Nurs '82; William J. **Hewitt**, Eng '83; Margaret R. **Schmeling**, Arts '83; Patrick K. **Walsh**, Arts '83; James A. **Ceman**, Bus Ad '84; Thomas J. **Hodzinski**, Eng '84; Joyce A. **Little**, Grad '84; Rev. John G. **Yockey**, Grad '84; Catherine A. (Zimick) **Thomas**, Law '85; Leslie M. (Keifer) **Hofeldt**, Bus Ad '86; Gary L. **Olsen**, Grad '86; Catherine M. (Cuene) **Robinson**, Arts '86; Kiran K. **Singh**, Dent '86; John M. **Wagner**, Sp '87; Patrick C. **Brennan**, Law '88; Joseph L. **Dorneo**, Bus Ad '88; Nancy W. (Weber) **Machinton**, Law '88; Patrick H. **Bukowski**, Grad '89; Richard A. **Goetz**, Bus Ad '89; Patrick J. **Klingert**, Eng '89; Lori J. **Loessin**, Comm '89

**1990s** Bruce A. **Hanna**, Law '90; Richard C. **McGrath**, Bus Ad '90; Albert J. **Raboteau**, Hon Deg '90; Richard R. **Strokes**, Arts '91; Diana E. (Fetzer) **Kelley**, Arts '92; Phillip J. **Egan**, Bus Ad '93; Eric T. **Phillips**, Arts '93; Chester G. **Duda**, Arts '94; Michael J. **Pfefferle**, Arts '94; Laura M. (Engel) **Triebold**, Grad '95; Derek J. **Gossman**, Grad '96; Allison J. (Mantei) **Mack**, Arts '96; Alberta H. (Paysen) **Helmke**, Grad '97; Sheila M. **Baer**, Grad '99, '04; David A. **Baumann**, Grad '99; John F. **Rogers**, Grad '99

**2000s** Mark A. **Nichols**, Grad '01; Randall E. **Doyle**, Law '02; Robert T. **Giesfeldt**, Prof St '02; Karen L. (Raflik) **Greene**, Prof St '10; Marsha H. (Datka) **Tyacke**, Grad '10, '18; Jeannette Q. **Brinkman**, Grad '11; R. James **Gallagher**, Grad '13; Micaela J. **Logan**, Law '14; Zachary J. **Myers**, Ed '16



## THANKS FOR KEEPING MARQUETTE HOME.

For hundreds of Marquette students, economic hardships jeopardize their ability to continue academic dreams. **YOU ARE THEIR BRIDGE.**

Marquette's Bridge to the Future student emergency fund has raised more than \$2 million in the last two years alone. Your support is the difference that helps current students remain at Marquette to receive a world-class, Jesuit education.

*"This has been the hardest year of my life, and it means the absolute world that I received this support. It helps not only me, but my mom as well due to the recent passing of my dad, and I could not be more grateful to be able to continue my education here at Marquette."*

—Arts and Sciences student



**TIME TO RISE**  
THE MARQUETTE PROMISE TO BE THE DIFFERENCE

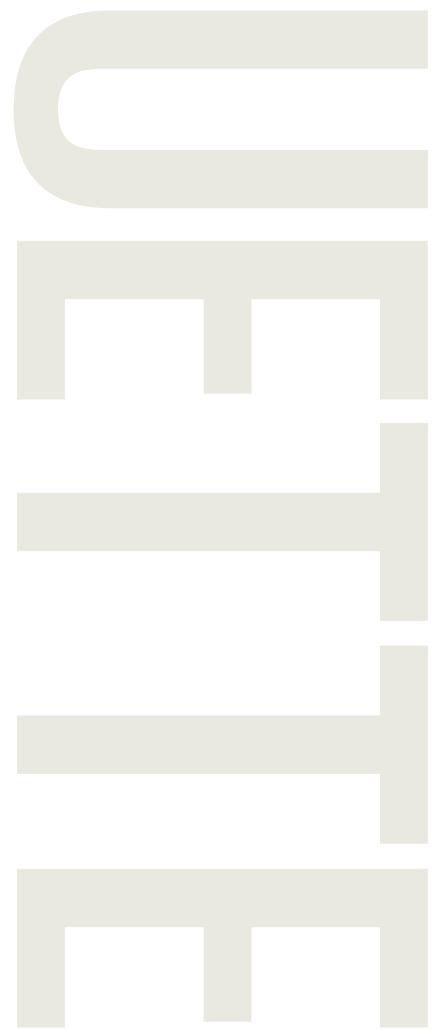


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As we welcome home so many of our alumni classes for Reunion Weekend this summer, consider how your gift to Bridge to the Future can ensure that today's students also continue to call campus home.

ALUMNI  
**REUNION**  
WEEKEND

Marquette University  
P.O. Box 1881  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-1881



# COME HOME TO MARQUETTE!

**Alumni Reunion Weekend, June 3-5, 2022**



Whether you graduated 5 years ago or 60, we welcome you home to reconnect and reminisce with classmates and to enjoy unforgettable events from parties, campus tours, awards and our Golden Jubilee celebration to Mass and more.

This year, we celebrate class years ending in a 1, 2, 6 or 7, plus our First Reunion (Classes of 2020 and 2021), the Black Alumni Association's 20th Anniversary and Alumni National Awards.

[marquette.edu/reunion](https://marquette.edu/reunion)

ALUMNI  
**REUNION**  
WEEKEND



**BE THE  
DIFFERENCE.**