

# THE WISCONSIN INDEPENDENT

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU)

FALL 2009 VOL. 41 NO. 3



WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT  
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Alverno College  
Beloit College  
Cardinal Stritch University  
Carroll University  
Carthage College  
Concordia University Wisconsin  
Edgewood College  
Lakeland College  
Lawrence University  
Marian University  
Marquette University  
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design  
Milwaukee School of Engineering  
Mount Mary College  
Northland College  
Ripon College  
St. Norbert College  
Silver Lake College  
Viterbo University  
Wisconsin Lutheran College

## INDEPENDENT INSIGHTS

### Leaning on our staff

My good friend Katharine Lyall, president emerita of the University of Wisconsin System, was fond of citing a passage from the Book of Hebrews: “Jacob died leaning on his staff.” What she meant, of course, was that leaders are not solitary figures; good leaders become great leaders because they have great staff. Yet staff often do not receive the kind of recognition that leaders do.

This is especially true in colleges and universities because the heart of the institutions’ missions is centered on teaching and learning. This means that the public’s attention is understandably focused on faculty and students. This is as it should be, and neither our leaders nor our staff would have it any other way. To work at a college or university is more than a job; it is a commitment to a cause.



Graduates of the first WAICU-sponsored leadership training seminars with Dr. Wegenke

Our commitment to students is demonstrated by the ever-increasing amount of aid we channel to students (see page 2) and by setting

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## Evers to private colleges: “Partnerships are key to the future”



DPI Superintendent Tony Evers at his July swearing-in ceremony at Hi-Mount Elementary School in Milwaukee. School principal Toni Hinks looks on.

*Editor’s note: State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Evers was invited by The Independent to share his thoughts on the beginning of the school year as he himself starts his first term as superintendent.*

To WAICU-Member Colleges and Universities:

In July, when I became State Superintendent of Public Instruction, I pledged to dedicate myself and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to ensuring every child graduates. Partnerships with parents, communities, business, industry, labor, and all of Wisconsin’s postsecondary institutions—including the members of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities—are required to reach this goal.

I have already met with WAICU president

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## Design class opens the road to future Harley styles

### MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN

A one-of-a-kind PowerSports course continues to roar at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design. That's because a group of MIAD students, with the help of the Harley-Davidson Stylists from the Willie G. Davidson Design Studio, are creating what could be the next generation touring motorcycle.

"This PowerSports class is the only course of its kind in the world," said instructor and industry expert Michael Samarzja, a MIAD alumnus. "Existing vehicle design programs focus only on four-wheel design."

Harley-Davidson funded a custom-designed studio, delivered motorcycles and supplies for student use, and provided expertise and input into the creation and ongoing progress of the course, including participation in student critiques.

At final team presentations to the

Stylists last fall, MIAD student Steve Hyma said that his team "dove into the lifestyle of Harley riders," starting its research by interviewing a cross section of riders during Harley's 105th anniversary celebration.

While concentrating her design component on customizations important to women, such as increased storage and accessibility of personal items, teammate Esse Tarrylly stressed that "the team members worked to make their bike a coherent whole and that the project was an excellent experience in moving from concepts to final clay models."

Ray Drea,  
Harley Redirector

of Styling, said, "This has been a great experience for my entire staff. The talent of MIAD students is inspiring, and the faculty does a great job of leading the students toward a real-world experience. This is a project where all truly benefit." ■



A team of MIAD industrial design students gives substance to its members' vision.

## Time 'behind the big fence' contrasts with college life but strengthens teaching

### RIPON COLLEGE

Joe Hatcher, a professor of psychology at Ripon College, has spent most of the last year in jail.

The goal of the veteran instructor was to obtain his recertification in counseling psychology via a one-year internship. As it happened, the only internship opportunities within a reasonable distance of Ripon were with the Department of Corrections, but those internships made perfect sense to inform and strengthen one of Hatcher's teaching specialties—the interdisciplinary field of peace studies.

"If you're thinking about working for peace, [a prison setting] makes sense because these are people who have not been peaceful at some point," he said.

The first six months of his internship were spent at Taycheedah Correctional Institution, a women's prison near Fond du Lac, and the Wisconsin Resource Center, a facility for mentally ill men just north of Oshkosh. The second six

months have been spent at the Redgranite Correctional Institution, a medium-security men's prison, and then Hatcher finished his sabbatical by returning to Taycheedah.

So unique and professionally interest-



Professor Joe Hatcher took a unique path to peace by going behind bars

ing was the internship to Hatcher that he began to dispatch reports of his experiences back to faculty and staff at Ripon. His

candid and evocative observations about prison life in contrast to the academic atmosphere not only became one of the college's most anticipated internal communications; they also brought all that is positive and hopeful about the higher-education "bubble" into sharp relief.

"Hopeless is the word that comes to mind [in prison], and there is very little hopelessness at Ripon College," he said in one early missive. "I had the thought yesterday that prison and liberal arts environments are on opposite ends of the 'life' continuum, and that the liberal arts environment is just as far from 'normal' as prison, but in a positive way. I hope you appreciate that; enjoy it for me until I get back."

Hatcher also has a professional interest in positive psychology, aka the science of happiness, and expounds upon the subject in an audio podcast at <http://www.ripon.edu/podcast/#Hatcher>. He returns to teaching full-time later this semester and hopes his experiences "behind bars" will make him a more effective teacher. ■

## Choral music program makes lifelong memories on Emerald Isle trip

### MARIAN UNIVERSITY

In early May, the Marian University Chamber Singers and Women's Choir started off on a weeklong tour of Ireland. For the thirty singers, it was a trip that struck the right note on many levels.

While on the trip, students shared their musical talent at many churches and cathedrals, including the Galway Cathedral, Killarney Cathedral, the Dublin Pro Cathedral, and at churches in Blarney and Carrick-on-Suir.

Both Ireland and Marian University are rooted in the Catholic heritage, the tenets of which constitute Marian's core values and were the main inspiration for the trip.

Students focused their performances

around liturgy that would be the best fit for their audience. The choir sang for masses and, in some churches, did a short



Marian's University Chamber Singers and Women's Choir spent part of the summer touring and performing in Ireland.

concert after mass.

An important aspect of the Marian

University music department is hands-on experience. The students are passionate about music and were excited to share their skills throughout Ireland. Students broadened their knowledge of Irish history, and were even able to participate in a local Irish music performance. In addition to performing, they also took time to learn about Ireland by visiting historic sites, like Blarney Castle, Bunnally Castle, Folk Park, and the city of Cobh.

Much can be said about the opportunities and experiences that the Marian music department offers to students. Abigail Hoffman, a senior member of the choir, said, "joining the choirs at Marian is a great opportunity to network with other students, faculty, and staff. Since being involved in music at Marian, I have had the opportunity to travel, make lifelong friends, and create great memories."

Those memories made the year's worth of work and planning for the trip well worth the effort, thanks to music—the universal language ■

## College classroom borders go global in new program

### MOUNT MARY COLLEGE

The generosity of an anonymous donor sparked the creation of a new scholarship fund this spring, making it possible for more Mount Mary College students to participate in its many study abroad programs. The donor will provide a \$20,000 gift to Mount Mary in each of the next five years which will be used to give students the opportunity to enrich their college education with an international study experience.

The first four students who were part of Mount Mary College's newly funded Peru program headed south in May. The program combined short-term course work in art; art therapy; Spanish; and travel to Cusco (the former Incan capital), Machu Picchu (the ruins of "The Lost City of the Incas"), and other archeological sites.

Spanish classes were held at Mount

Mary's sister college, the Universidad Católica Santa Mariá (UCSM) in Arequipa.

The area is noted for its unique colonial architecture and is surrounded by snow-capped volcanoes in the southern Andes. UCSM is renowned for research conducted jointly with National Geographic on the high-altitude mummies recently discovered in the region.

Students experienced family life through home stays with "familias arequipeñas" and performed service learning projects in the Alto Cayma community, located on the outskirts of Arequipa.

"Study abroad can be one of the most important experiences in a student's college career," said Richard Muirhead, director of Mount Mary's International Studies Program, "and because of this donor, some of our most deserving students can take their studies well beyond our class-

room boundaries."

The college offers a surprisingly large



Shannon Zimmerman, a 2009 scholarship recipient, gets a knitting lesson from a local Peruvian artisan.

number of study abroad opportunities for a relatively small college; nearly 100 Mount Mary students studied abroad last semester. In addition to the college's organized programs, students can get help arranging plans to achieve their own foreign study goals in this program or in Ireland, England, or Japan. ■

## Renovation starts new chapter for student residential life

### SILVER LAKE COLLEGE

When students returned to Silver Lake College this fall, they found a completely new residential experience awaiting their arrival.

Thanks in large part to a newly renovated \$5 million on-campus residence hall, 178 students now have the opportunity to call Clare Hall home.

As part of a multi-year strategic plan, Silver Lake committed to making an exceptional and modern residential experience available to each undergraduate during his or her time at the college.

“We view a dynamic residential experience as one of the most important elements in creating a successful environment for our students,” said Dr. George F. Arnold, president of Silver Lake. “We believe that learning takes place around the clock, both inside and outside the classroom. Therefore, it is essential that the ‘outside the classroom’ activities, facilities, and personnel be exceptional in every way.”

Part of the exceptional personnel includes Rachel Fischer, the new director of residential life. “I am excited about having the opportunity to help create an outstanding residential experience here on



Rachel Fischer (r), Director of Residential Life, meets with a resident assistant in the new dorm at Silver Lake.

campus,” said Fischer. “It is a chance to really build student engagement through activities and events that the students

view as being of real interest and value.”

One of the first activities on the campus includes a weeklong orientation session for new students that culminated with a matriculation ceremony.

During this week, students had the chance to learn about each other and the college, and begin planning and developing activities that they will pursue throughout the year.

“When students arrive on campus for the first time, it is essential that they immediately feel as though they belong,” said Fischer. “We give them an opportunity to get involved with campus life from the minute they arrive.”

In addition to the host of activities already planned for the fall, Silver Lake will be adding a men’s and women’s

golf team along with several intramural sports in which the residents can participate. ■

## Graduate program in education one of the largest in the country

### VITERBO UNIVERSITY

Whitehall High School science teacher Pamela Hansen was looking for a master’s degree program that would not only allow her to develop her classroom skills, but would be convenient as well. She found just such a program at Viterbo University.

Hansen was one of approximately 470 teachers to earn a Master of Arts in Education degree from Viterbo University during the July 2009 commencement. She and the other students spent a week on the Viterbo campus to present their research projects and complete the final requirements to earn their degrees.

“It went really well,” Hansen said of the program. “It has really enriched my teaching. I have been able to get something meaningful out of every class.”

Hansen said she chose Viterbo because its Friday evening and Saturday

class schedule was ideal, and she liked the Viterbo philosophy of professional, personal, and ethical development.

The Viterbo University Master of Arts in Education program is one of the largest of its kind in the nation, with over 5,700 graduates since the program’s inception in 1990.

“The success of the Viterbo Master of Arts in Education program is due to our commitment to offer quality and meaningful professional development to educators, and because we deliver instruction in convenient formats for teachers in both cities

and remote areas of Wisconsin and Iowa,” said program director Rhonda Rabbitt.

The impact of the program has been huge economically for the La Crosse community and professionally for Wisconsin, where the majority of the Viterbo-trained

teachers are employed. With each graduate educating thousands of students over the course of their careers, the effect of



Pamela Hanson is one of thousands who have earned a master’s degree in education at Viterbo.

the program is truly profound.

“Our mission is to prepare teachers to become grounded in the Franciscan values and possess the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to be effective classroom decision makers,” Rabbitt said. ■

## Culture on campus: a new direction in theatre and music

### CARROLL UNIVERSITY

Even an old dog can learn new tricks.

The theater arts program at Carroll University is the oldest in Wisconsin, but its accomplishments are as up to date as tomorrow. James Zager, Pierce-Hedges Chair and associate professor, is committed to revitalizing the program. Since July 2008, he has focused on nurturing the artists, as well as the appreciators and audience members.

Zager's performance season included two sold-out shows, the musical "Sweet Charity" and the drama "Proof." Yet he was most pleased with "Un Sueño Nuevo – A New Dream." Before performances, he introduced the 12 company members, including students who had never acted, sang, or spoken Spanish before that production.

Zager encourages all students to expand their understanding of theater history and literature in a global context, to develop skills for the collaborative theater

process, and to deepen their appreciation of theater as a unique and vital art form serving a diverse community.

This summer, the music program wel-

spent conducting, singing, and teaching. Though her conducting and singing opportunities flourished, Boerger's teaching possibilities "began to stagnate."

"I sought a position where I could effectively share the great teaching I have received," she said. "I believe I found such a position at Carroll."

She plans to increase the profile of Carroll's choirs, present them in unexpected context, and take the Concert Choir, Carroll's premier auditioned ensemble, abroad. "I feel fortunate to work for an administration that



"Un Sueño Nuevo—A New Dream" was one of Carroll's new bilingual theater productions.

came its own revitalization: Dr. Kristina Boerger, the new director of choral activities. She comes to Carroll from a freelance career in New York City, which she

recognizes that the choral discipline yields benefits and joys, both musical and extramusical, for music majors and avocational devotees," Boerger said. ■



The visual history of Wisconsin's private colleges and universities comes alive online.

## WAICU digital image collection goes live

An online project to take the visual and written history of WAICU-member schools has launched. The website, *Past and Present: A Digital History of Wisconsin Independent Colleges and Universities*, is located at <http://archives.exchange.viterbo.edu>. There are nearly 200 fascinating photos showing college life dating as far back as the 19th century and encompassing the founding of many of the schools.

*Past and Present* was created to celebrate the rich heritage of each institution. The collection answers frequently asked questions through the use of primary resources and narrative descriptions. Another advantage of taking history online is that new audiences are introduced to it. For questions about the project or to contribute more images, contact John Hinck, Archives Librarian, Viterbo University: [jhinck@viterbo.edu](mailto:jhinck@viterbo.edu).

## New legislation has impact on WAICU

Earlier this summer, Governor Jim Doyle signed into law two pieces of legislation that had been championed by WAICU. Dr. Rolf Wegenke, WAICU president, was present for one of the bill signings (pictured at right).

One law gives nonprofit institutions more flexibility in tapping into their endowment funds. Media reports say it brings Wisconsin into line with other states on use of the funds.

Another law renewed the "Green Tier Program," an innovative environmental regulation system. Green Tier is a collaborative effort between the Department of Natural Resources and environmentally responsible businesses including Wisconsin's independent colleges.



Governor Doyle signs a spending bill in July that had been part of the WAICU legislative agenda.

# Leaning on our staff

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the lowest tuition increases in over 30 years. Less visible are some of the things we are doing for our staff. To pick only one example, the 20 private colleges and universities in WAICU have directed the establishment of the WAICU Leadership Development Program, a staff training program customized for the college and university setting. As you can see in the front-page photo, we have “graduated” the first class to complete the curriculum in Supervisor and the Law; Interviewing and the Law; Coaching and Counseling for Success and Progressive Discipline; and Performance Management, Performance Reviews, and Effective Feedback. I was pleased to present certificates to these outstanding people committed to the cause of quality education.

Colleges and universities are not exempt from the stresses of the current economic crisis. Furloughs, salary freezes, and other cutbacks affect faculty and staff alike. My purpose in writing today is to underscore what we believe and teach: excellence is not divisible. Students, faculty, administrators, and staff are all—in their own unique ways—essential to the excellence of teaching and learning. John Gardner has been quoted as saying, “The society which scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity, and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity, will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water.” Due to the excellence of the staff and faculty at Wisconsin’s private colleges, both our pipes and our theories are in fine shape, and we are keeping our heads above water.

WAICU’s mission is: “Wisconsin’s private colleges, working together to advance educational opportunity.” Without our superlative staff, we could not work together—indeed, we could not work at all. For this reason, I salute the 5,685 staff members at Wisconsin’s private colleges and universities.

Sincerely,



Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.  
WAICU President



## WAICU BULLETIN BOARD

### KUDOS

- Both **Lawrence University** (41st) and **Ripon College** (100th) cracked the top 100 of a Forbes.com survey of “America’s Top Colleges.” Ripon, **Edgewood College**, and **St. Norbert College** were also named “Best in the Midwest” colleges in a new survey by *The Princeton Review*.
- Marquette University** and **Ripon College** were two of 150 colleges nationwide recognized as “Great Places to Work For” in a survey by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- Viterbo University** senior **Kristina Smaby** of Holmen was selected as Miss Wisconsin. The business management major will represent Wisconsin at the Miss America pageant in January.
- Nadreen Bagoun**, majoring in international affairs at **Marquette University**, and **Adeeba Karimi**, majoring in international political economy at **Carthage College**, have each been awarded \$3,000 scholarships for 2009-2010 from Wisconsin Women in Government.
- Eighteen arts organizations statewide, including the gallery at **Alverno College**, will share in Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds targeted for the arts community. The Wisconsin Arts Board says Wisconsin’s nonprofit arts industry generates more than \$400 million in annual economic activity.

### ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- The president of **Cardinal Stritch University**, **Dr. Helen Sobehart**, has been asked to serve on the Milwaukee County Ethics Board. The mission of the Ethics Board is to assure the general public of the integrity of Milwaukee County Government.
- Dr. Mary Meehan**, president of **Alverno College**, has joined the board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU). NAICU-member institutions enroll 90 percent of the students at private colleges and universities in the US.

### NEW DEGREES AND PROGRAMS

- Marian University** is launching new degree programs this fall in homeland security and health care administration. Both programs will initially be offered at several Marian campuses and then expanded as demand warrants.
- The social work program at **Concordia University Wisconsin** has been accredited through 2017. The eight-year extension was granted by the Council on Social Work Education.
- The nursing program at **Silver Lake College** has received its accreditation approval from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The degree-completion program is designed for current registered nurses, those with an associate’s degree in nursing, or those with a diploma in nursing.

### EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

- Marquette University** and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) will partner to extend educational opportunities to outstanding young people. Marquette will provide up to three full-tuition scholarships annually to winners of the BGCA’s Youth of the Year program. The first scholarships will be awarded for students who enroll as freshmen in the fall 2010 semester.
- Concordia University Wisconsin** and We Energies are working together on a major project to increase ongoing sustainability efforts by installing a solar electric system on the campus. Once installed, the new system will complement sustainability features of the Concordia Center for Environmental Stewardship, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010.
- Marian University** and the University of Wisconsin Colleges have signed an articulation agreement clarifying transfers of credit between the two institutions. Under the agreement, Marian will accept up to 64 credits in transfer if the student has completed all requirements and received an associate of arts & science degree from any University of Wisconsin College campus.

## THE WISCONSIN INDEPENDENT

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## Evers' message to WAICU members

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Rolf Wegenke to discuss areas of collaboration. As partners, we will work together to help all students graduate high school ready to continue their learning at the postsecondary level, embark on their careers, and serve as effective citizens.

WAICU and DPI will continue to collaborate on critical initiatives such as addressing students' transition from high school to their college or university education. DPI is working to revise Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards to identify what students in grades PK-12 should know and be able to do. WAICU leadership and representatives have helped shape the revised standards in English language arts and mathematics. Our updated draft standards and a description of the process are available at [www.dpi.wi.gov/cal/standards-revisions.html](http://www.dpi.wi.gov/cal/standards-revisions.html).

DPI and WAICU are also collaborating on the design of a better data sharing

system, to link student data from grades PK-16. Efforts are underway to link high school student data with postsecondary data in order to dig deeper into critical issues of preparation, transition, and success. DPI received its second federal grant to work toward this goal through a Longitudinal Data System that will provide deeper analysis of trends and individual students' progress toward their degree goals.

Of course, many WAICU institutions are working with us as approved Teacher Education Programs, preparing hundreds of students to become highly qualified educators for our public schools.

I look forward to continued collaboration with WAICU, and I appreciate the contributions of all of the WAICU-member institutions. Together we can prepare all students with the skills and knowledge they will need to become successful contributing members of our communities. ■

*"It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it."*

Oscar Wilde  
1854-1900

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