

THE WISCONSIN INDEPENDENT

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

SPRING 2019 VOL. 51 NO. 1



WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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

INDEPENDENT INSIGHTS

Student success: something we all can get behind

WAICU's mission is "working together for educational opportunity." Sometimes people are surprised that private colleges - which are, after all, competitors - want to work together. The "secret" is that Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges and universities are distinctive, but they share a common interest in putting students first; they truly care about what is best for their students.

When students find the institution that is the best fit for them, we want them to thrive in that environment. WAICU members collaborate on cost-saving programs, so that institutions can invest more in academics and student aid. We also advocate together for policies that have a positive impact on all students. I want to share with you a new collaborative venture.

Despite snow, wind, freezing rain, and cold, WAICU members gathered at Cardinal Stritch University on Saturday, February 23 for a workshop: "Scaling Student Success: Best Practices for Developing Strong Foundations in English and Math for ALL Students."

Seventy-four registered, so they could share best practices to help students challenged by English and math to get the

continued on page 7



Student Ambassadors advocate for Wisconsin Grants

In the Fall 2018 semester, WAICU launched its new Student Ambassador program on four member campuses. WAICU Student Ambassadors are selected through a competitive interview process and serve as leaders who advocate for support for Wisconsin Grants, the state's primary need-based financial aid program for Wisconsin students attending private, nonprofit colleges or universities in Wisconsin. (There are also Wisconsin Grant appropriations for UW System and Technical College students.)

Since the beginning of the program, WAICU Student Ambassadors have organized events on campus to promote financial literacy and to help their fellow students to better understand student financial aid. These campus events also included civic engagement components, such as signing a petition, writing postcards to legislators, and creating a poster with students' statements in support of Wisconsin Grants.

In his 2019-21 budget proposal, Governor Evers has called for an additional \$17.4 million in funding for Wisconsin Grants for all sectors. In April, WAICU Student Ambassadors

will visit their elected officials at the state capitol to share their experiences on how student financial aid has made a difference for them and for students on their campuses. Funding for Wisconsin Grants has received bipartisan support.

Recent national estimates show that those in the highest family income quartile are five times more likely to attain a bachelor's degree by the time they turn 24 than those in the lowest family income quartile (58 percent vs. 11 percent). Need-based financial aid to students is a critical measure to ensure that students who are academically qualified - regardless of their backgrounds - have the opportunity to pursue higher education.



WAICU Student Ambassadors gather signatures in support of Wisconsin Grants.



Save the dates! Wisconsin Private College Week, July 8 - 13, 2018, is an ideal time to make campus visits.

Wisconsin has 24 private, nonprofit colleges and universities, each with its own unique campus culture and academic opportunities. Students and their family members (and counselors) are invited to tour as many campuses as they are able to pack into the joint open house week. Student visitors who complete evaluations at the end of a tour will be entered into a contest to win an iPad - the more campuses they visit, the greater their chances of winning.

Visits include the opportunity to tour facilities, see residence halls, speak with admissions and financial aid officers, meet current students and faculty members, try the food, and learn more about academic programs, sports, student activities, and more.

Online registration for Wisconsin Private College Week will open later this spring at: www.WisconsinsPrivateColleges.org/visit



2019 College Seminar Tour

High school counselors are invited to participate in the 2019 College Seminar Tour: June 17 - 21, 2019. The College Seminar Tour gives secondary school counselors the opportunity to explore colleges and universities throughout Wisconsin and Northern Illinois while earning three graduate credits through Marian University.

The graduate credits are approved by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and are endorsed by the Wisconsin Association for College Admission Counseling and WAICU.

This tour enables school counselors to learn and pass along unique insights to students about the colleges and universities that they are interested in. Counselors will also have the opportunity to network with other professionals while earning credits toward the renewal of their state license. The registration deadline is May 31.

More information can be found at: <http://www.marianuniversity.edu/cst>

Early College Credit Program at Wisconsin's Private, Nonprofit Colleges and Universities

High school students at public and private schools in Wisconsin can earn college credit through the Early College Credit Program (ECCP). ECCP can be a great way for high school students to get a jump start on college and challenge themselves academically with courses that are not offered at their high school. Students are advised to talk with their school counselor to see if ECCP is a good fit.

Many WAICU-member colleges and universities offer ECCP courses for high school students. Popular courses include introductory (100-level) business, English, foreign language, math, psychology, and science courses. An overview of course offerings, a contact list of admissions staff, and the application to apply are available at: www.waicu.org/dual-enrollment/eccp

Pink explosion: armed with a flashlight and a sense of wonder, researchers discover hot-pink squirrels

NORTHLAND COLLEGE

In May 2017, Dr. Jonathan Martin, professor of forestry at Northland College, read a paper by a researcher who had discovered the first frogs to fluoresce under ultraviolet light.

Martin is an amateur tree climber who has been working on a white pine canopy project for years with a colleague, Dr. Erik Olson, assistant professor of natural resources. They are learning about the critters that live at the top of the trees like the grey tree frog, which can have bright yellow on its underside.

Martin wondered if this yellow also might fluoresce. It did not. But his search for other fluorescing organisms became an almost nightly activity.

Then one night, he heard the tell-tale chirp of flying squirrels at his birdfeeder. He pointed his flashlight upward and noted a glimmer of pink coming from the underside of a flying squirrel—a nocturnal mammal that glides from tree to tree using

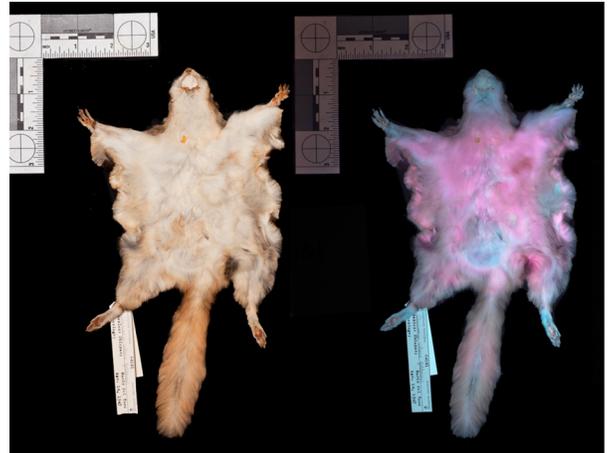
its membranes or patagia that stretch between the forelimbs and hind limbs.

Martin assembled a team of colleagues and asked Northland student, Allie Kohler '18, now a graduate student in wildlife and fisheries at Texas A&M, to take the lead.

The four-person team recently published their findings in the *Journal of Mammalogy* and have received overwhelming media attention.

First came an article in *Nature*, one of the top scientific magazines in the world. And then came the *New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Newsweek*, *Smithsonian*, and other—seventy-plus and counting—publications.

There are two working hypotheses to explain the pink. The squirrel uses it to communicate or as a way to avoid predators.



Researchers from Northland College discovered that flying squirrels glow hot-pink under UV light.

Regardless of whether it has a role in animal fitness or if it's a relic of some evolutionary twist and turn, Olson believes there is a bigger lesson to be learned from the pink squirrels. "These kinds of discoveries are reason to pause in wonder at the world around us." ■

Nashotah House welcomes new executive vice president

NASHOTAH HOUSE



Labin Duke joins Nashotah House as executive vice president for institutional advancement.

Nashotah House has named Mr. Labin Duke as their executive vice president for institutional advancement, effective February 18, 2019. Mr. Duke comes to Nashotah House from the development department of Baylor University, where he served as the director of donor relations since 2016. Prior to his time at Baylor, Duke enjoyed a highly successful tenure in the development office of Dallas Theological Seminary, from which he also graduated with a Master of Theology.

The addition of Labin Duke as the executive vice president for institutional advancement marks the second phase of Nashotah House's organizational restructuring, joining recently appointed president and provost, Dr. Garwood P. Anderson. Duke, who brings considerable experience to Nashotah House, becomes the chief officer of external affairs, overseeing the seminary's development, alumni/ae, marketing, and recruitment efforts.

Commenting on Duke's appointment, Anderson stated, "It would be hard to imagine a more exceptional addition to our

team. Labin brings a track record of success at the highest level, seemingly boundless energy, and, as an Anglican Christian, a deep passion for our mission."

Occupying a distinctive and strategic niche in the North American ecclesial scene, the historic seminary is reviving its capacity to train Christians for leadership in the Anglican tradition. With a recent increase in enrollment and several high-profile faculty hires, the addition of Duke poises the seminary for its next season of growth.

On his move from Baylor to Nashotah House, Duke comments, "Nobody is doing what Nashotah House is doing. It's a special place, and I became captivated by its vision and its potential. For me, it's a calling." ■

Did you know?

WAICU members produce 25 percent of all bachelor's degrees and 35 percent of all advanced degrees in the state.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Lawrence launches transformative \$220 million campaign

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

When Lawrence University launched the public phase of its \$220 million capital campaign in late 2018, it affirmed its commitment to creating and maintaining an inclusive educational experience that prepares students to lead lives of meaning and distinction.

The campaign — *Be the Light! Learners. Leaders. Lawrentians.* — is the most ambitious fundraising initiative in Lawrence’s history.

“This campaign has the power to transform our university, our students, and the future leadership of our world,” President Mark Burstein said.

The campaign’s four cornerstones reflect Lawrence values:

Full Speed to Full Need: Launched in 2014, this initiative looks to make Lawrence accessible and affordable to every student. With \$75 million raised to date, Lawrence is on pace to become the first full-need institution in Wisconsin



Bianca Pratte '19 shares her Lawrence experience with the attendees of the Be the Light! Campaign kick-off on November 4, 2018.

and one of fewer than 70 nationwide.

Student journey: Lawrence educates the whole student, from classroom learning to personal development through wellness, career advising, and more. Generous gifts have supported key positions on the student journey, including the Dennis and Charlot Nelson Singleton Professorship in Cognitive

Neuroscience, the Julie Esch Hurvis Dean for Spiritual and Religious Life, and the Riaz Waraich Dean for Career, Life, and Community Engagement.

Campus renewal: Spaces shape the student experience, and Lawrence is renewing its beautiful and historic campus in key areas like athletics, the Center for Academic Success, and residence halls.

The Lawrence Fund: This annual fund is a critical part of the university’s financial health and ensures student

success every day. Contributions to the fund come from alumni/ae and friends at all financial levels.

“These investments will allow us to continue our transformational work, to be the light,” Burstein said.

To date, the campaign has raised \$170 million towards its goal. More information is available at bethelight.lawrence.edu. ■

Marian University launches three-year nursing program

MARIAN UNIVERSITY

The demand for nurses continues to be at the forefront within healthcare and many higher education institutions. According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, the employment of registered nurses is expected to rise 15 percent from 2016 to 2036. “To address the impending nursing shortage not only in Wisconsin, but across the nation, Marian University has developed a three-year undergraduate nursing program aimed at providing students the same quality instruction and the ability to earn their degree faster than their peers in order to enter the workforce sooner,” stated Dr. Katie Hughes, director of Marian’s Undergraduate Nursing program. Marian nursing graduates are employed or attending graduate school within 1 year of graduation. They not only enjoy a rewarding lifelong career, but are also meeting the needs of the growing community.

The three-year BSN program will be launching in the fall of 2019. The inaugural

class of 20 students will enter in to Marian’s nursing program that includes pre-requisite, general education, clinical experiences, and nursing courses in 15-week sessions that include two summer sessions. Students graduating from Marian’s three-year nursing program will be prepared to take the National Council Licensures Examination.

Students will be individually advised about the opportunity to apply to the three-year nursing program annually in October, and they will learn if they are admitted into the program in November. “This program provides students and families the opportunity to graduate one year earlier and enter the workplace earlier, earning a salary before their peers, and ultimately begin having an impact on communities and patients in need,” said Megan Liptow, director of freshman admission.



Marian’s new three-year program seeks to address nursing shortages.

Whether in the traditional programs or the 3-year program, Marian students will be able to build a strong community among their peers and gain experience in both theory and practice in a supportive learning environment. ■

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

'Mindset' highlights the MSOE difference

MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

MSOE graduates are leaders of character—responsible professionals who never stop learning and strive to create value in the communities where they work and live.

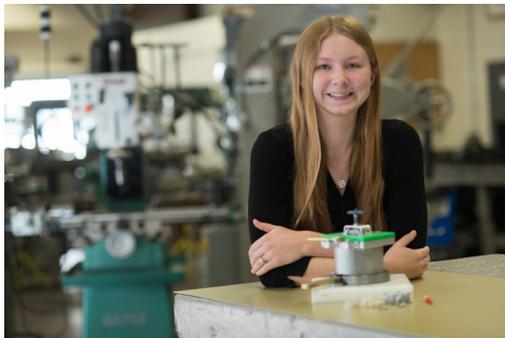
These characteristics are the sum of the MSOE Mindset—an approach to learning that weaves together MSOE's mission, vision, and values, with a servant-leader philosophy and the entrepreneurial mindset that is the hallmark of an MSOE education. Fostering this mindset is the recently formed CREATE Institute (Community-focused Real-world Engagement in Academics Through Experiential-learning).

"It's important to live the MSOE Mindset to really understand that we're more than what we do. It's how we behave and what our character is," said DeAnna Leitzke, P.E., CREATE Institute director.

To support the developmental work toward the CREATE Institute's

success, MSOE has received a \$2 million, multi-year grant from The Kern Family Foundation and will also leverage funds from current MSOE endowment funds.

The CREATE Institute will ensure MSOE students receive well-rounded, high-impact educational experiences that will enhance the relevancy of their learning and serve as a campus resource for faculty, staff, and students.



Kate Wallschlaeger demonstrated the MSOE Mindset when she designed and built a fixture to improve a switch assembly process at Careers Industries Inc.

An MSOE industrial engineering class partnered with Careers Industries, a Racine-based company that provides vocational opportunities and employment for adults with developmental disabilities. The result was to improve the ergonomic conditions of the switch assembly and cord wrapping processes. Students toured the facility, spoke with employees and conducted evaluations. They wrote a paper detailing their observations and recommendations to improve the processes.

Junior Kate Wallschlaeger, of Jackson, Wisconsin, took the project much further. She designed and built the fixture that would improve the switch assembly process. "Our success could directly improve the everyday lives of people just trying to do their job," she said. "I wanted to make sure Careers Industries had at least one working fixture, the training and instructions on how to use it, and all of the engineering drawings necessary to make another." ■

Concordia-led estrogen research effort holds promise for treating dementia in women

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN

A "stripped-down" estrogen molecule developed by a trio of researchers from three Milwaukee-area universities has proven effective in improving memory in a model system for treating dementia in post-menopausal women.

Women are three times more likely than men to develop memory loss and Alzheimer's disease as they age, and those memory deficits are linked to a decline in estrogens, hormones whose levels plunge during menopause. The advantage of the new estrogen molecule is it doesn't carry the increased risk of breast and other cancers as traditional hormone replacement therapy does.

This academic year, the National Institutes of Health renewed a three-year grant awarded to the lead researcher of the project, Dr. Daniel Sem of Concordia University Wisconsin. Dr. Sem, along

with Dr. Karyn Frick of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Dr. William Donaldson of Marquette University, co-authored two published articles that describe the new molecule, and over the summer, the team of researchers formed a startup company, Estrigenix Therapeutics, Inc., which will be devoted to developing drugs that affect estrogen biology.

Estrogens act throughout the body by binding to receptor proteins, the most prominent of which are estrogen receptors alpha and beta. Most of the detrimental side effects associated with hormone replacement therapy in menopausal women are due to estrogens binding to estrogen receptor alpha. The new molecule is a smaller version of a particular type of estrogen called estradiol that selectively binds to estrogen receptor beta.

Although the trio's research is promising, there is a long road ahead to developing a consumer-friendly version of the drug to market. Sem estimates it will take another \$2 million to get the

compound into human clinical trials. "Hormone replacement therapy is one of the more promising treatments for dementia for post-menopausal women at the moment, but because of interactions with estrogen receptor alpha, this therapy poses some risk to women," says Dr. Sem, dean of Concordia's Batterman School of Business and professor of business and pharmaceutical sciences. "Our compound, however, has shown statistically significant results in providing the memory enhancing effects of estrogens without the risk of cancer." ■



Dr. Daniel Sem, dean of CUW's Batterman School of Business, was awarded an NIH grant.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Maternal and neonatal manikins have lasting impact on Bellin College students

BELLIN COLLEGE

Bellin College nursing students have been able to utilize a new maternal simulator training tool this academic year, thanks to generous donors. Proceeds from Bellin's 18th Annual Golf Classic in 2018 as well as a private foundation gift enabled the college to purchase a childbirth simulator named Victoria.

Victoria is a lifelike, high-fidelity manikin that educators can use to implement seamless birthing simulations, including normal, breech, and cesarean section deliveries. Victoria gives birth to a lifelike, full-term, realistic baby named Tori. In addition to many lifelike and interactive features, Victoria and Tori also support a wide range of diagnostic equipment, which allows students to practice equipment setup, operation, and data interpretation.

"I have drastically changed how I teach since incorporating simulation into my course curriculum," said Michelle Pranghofer, instructor of nursing at Bellin



Susan Poppele, assistant professor of nursing at Bellin College, instructs students using Victoria, the lifelike birthing simulator at Bellin College in Green Bay.

College. "Students seem to enjoy, learn, and remain highly engaged with the use of simulators. Adding these tools into my course has helped me reach those students who need a more hands-on education."

It is an exceptional opportunity for students to have the ability to experience

and practice with a high-functioning manikin, such as Victoria, in the classroom setting before setting out into the real world at their job or on clinical sites.

"These simulators provide students an opportunity to not only learn concepts about maternity but to function as a maternity nurse for a moment in time," Pranghofer said. "They are power tools that enable students to apply concepts they have learned and put their knowledge into practice."

Bellin College holds a golf event annually. Proceeds from the 19th Annual Golf Classic this coming June will go toward enhancing the Student Success Center on the Bellin College campus. ■

Silver Lake College of the Holy Family raises more than \$250,000 for Gift of Dreams Campaign

SILVER LAKE COLLEGE OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Silver Lake College of the Holy Family launched the Gift of Dreams Campaign on December 10, 2018 as a three-week initiative to raise \$250,000, which would allow 50 students to continue their education at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family. The College surpassed its campaign goal, raising \$259,040.

At the end of the Fall 2018 semester, more than 50 students were in jeopardy of not being able to return for the Spring 2019 semester due to financial challenges. Dr. Robert B. Callahan, president of Silver Lake College of the Holy Family appealed to the college community. He was grateful to those who joined him and the College in

supporting this campaign.

"Thank you to everyone who supported us in surpassing our goal of \$250,000! Through the generous support of the Lakeshore communities, our valued donors, community partners, faculty and staff, these students will continue on their path to earning a college degree," said Dr. Callahan. "By making their dreams possible through generous donations, we will continue our mission of encouraging students to become servant leaders. We are grateful for the generosity and assistance in making the Gift of Dreams Campaign a great success!"

Students were contacted in January to inform them that their tuition debt would be decreased to the level at which they could enroll for the spring semester. "Because we surpassed our fundraising goal, we were able to help more than 50 students," said Tracy Milkowski, vice president for advancement and external relations. "This was not a handout, but a second chance for our students. Many of them worked on



Dr. Robert B. Callahan hangs his ornament on the Gift of Dreams Giving Tree. The tree was filled with ornaments to signify all of the gifts that were given to the campaign.

campus during Christmas break to further reduce their tuition debt."

The Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity continue to ensure a large part of the College's mission be dedicated to empowering and educating students in an environment grounded in the Franciscan Values. ■

help they need and still graduate on time.

An advisory task force composed of Dr. Moreen Carvan, Marian University; Dr. Wendy A. Weaver, Mount Mary University; Dr. Tracy Stewart, Viterbo University; and Ms. Kathy Paul of WAICU planned the workshop. Teams from Bellin College, Marian University, Mount Mary University, Milwaukee School of Engineering, and Wisconsin Lutheran College shared their model initiatives of evidence-based scaling practices for student success. Through formal presentations and a breakout session, these teams discussed the challenges, rewards, lessons-learned, and future opportunities for their respective models.

Prior to the workshop, registrants completed in-depth pre-event work at their home campus regarding their individual and team insights and intentions for learning and action. During the workshop, registrants met as campus teams to document their notes and impressions and begin planning scaling practices for their own colleges and universities.

This workshop is only the first step in a three-year period of collaborative learning. The project is supported by a travel grant from the Education Commission of the States and by WAICU members themselves.

The work will continue beyond the workshop. This spring, participating colleges and universities will submit their initial plans for scaling a project to the WAICU advisory task force for feedback. Teams will then use the remainder of the academic year to plan for fall implementation of scalable practices.

The participants braved the elements and gave up their Saturday in February, not because they had to, but because they care. The weather did keep some away. We are working to “catch them up.”

WAICU presented the workshop as part of our involvement in Strong Start to Finish (SSTF), an initiative of the Education Commission of the States. SSTF staff have expressed their admiration for WAICU members’ ability to work together towards educational opportunity, and we could not be prouder.

Sincerely,



Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President



WAICU BULLETIN BOARD

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Dr. John D. Kolander**, provost of **Wisconsin Lutheran College**, was the recipient of the 2018 Chief Academic Officer Award from the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC).
- **Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD)** industrial design students have collaborated with Delta Faucet on a curricular project for the past several years, and this year, Delta Faucet is patenting an unprecedented 10 student designs.
- **Carthage College** and **Lawrence University** were among the top producers of 2018-19 Fulbright students.
- **Carroll University** has received \$5.5 million - the single largest gift in the school's history - from the estate of alumnus Bill Yersin. A portion of the gift will be used to establish two new scholarships, support an existing scholarship and to create an endowed faculty position. The remaining funds may be used without restrictions.
- **Edgewood College**, the **Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE)**, **Northland College**, and **Viterbo University** were named to the 2019-20 Military Friendly® Schools list.
- A \$450,000 gift from the Oscar Rennebohm Foundation will help launch the Inclusive Internship Project at **Edgewood College**. This new initiative, which begins with the start of the 2019-2020 academic year, will support paid internships for students, especially those in liberal arts majors, or from low socioeconomic backgrounds.
- **Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE)** students placed second in the nation at the Design-Build Institute of America's Student Competition.
- *U.S. News & World Report* named **Edgewood College** to its top ten list of national universities and **Ripon College** to its top ten list of national liberal arts colleges that promote social mobility.
- The Milwaukee ROTC Golden Eagle Battalion, based at **Marquette University** and made up of cadets from Marquette, the **Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE)** and UW-Milwaukee, is one of eight Army ROTC programs that will advance to the 2019 West Point Sandhurst Military Skills Competition in April.
- **Cardinal Stritch University** was ranked on the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* list of private, nonprofit doctoral institutions that had the greatest increases in their percentages of underrepresented minorities.
- Two **Concordia University Wisconsin** School of Pharmacy students will present at an upcoming symposium for Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity on April 26. CUW participants are **Arianna Wichman** and **Anghelo Gangano**, who are mentored by CUW faculty **Dr. Tzvia Springer** and **Dr. Chris Cunningham**. Wichman will present on ExoY nucleotidyl cyclase toxin from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, an opportunistic pathogen of cystic fibrosis and wound patients. Gangano will present “The Synthesis of Piperazine-based CB1R and D4R Dual-Acting Antagonists.”
- A \$5 million gift from the Thomas J. Rolfs Family Foundation will fund **Marquette University's** new Institute for Women's Leadership.
- **Edgewood College** has received a gift of \$500,000 that creates the Rouse Family Scholarship, named in honor of Al Rouse, a longtime staff member and colleague.
- The national publication, *Graphic Design USA*, named **Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD)** communication design students **Cera Propper** and **Tony Holz** as “Students to Watch in 2019.”
- **Marquette University's** College of Health Sciences received a \$1 million gift from an anonymous donor to establish the Neuro Recovery Clinic to treat individuals with chronic disability following neurological conditions such as stroke, brain injury, and spinal cord injury.
- **Marian University** Senior Vice President of University Relations **George Koonce, Ph.D.**, along with former Wisconsin Lieutenant Governors Rebecca Kleefisch and Barbara Lawton, and Church Mutual Insurance President and CEO Rich Poirier, will co-chair the Toward One Inclusivity Conference in Milwaukee on April 11-12, 2019.
- On February 23, **Milwaukee School of Engineering Regent Ron Jensen** received an Honorary Doctor of Engineering degree and delivered the

continued on page 8



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*“Let us pick up our books and our pens.
They are our most powerful weapons.”*

Malala Yousafzai

WAICU: WISCONSIN'S PRIVATE, NONPROFIT COLLEGES WORKING TOGETHER FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

THE WISCONSIN INDEPENDENT

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BULLETIN BOARD *continued from page 7*

keynote address at MSOE's Winter Commencement.

- A \$500,000 gift from the Bryon Riesch Paralysis Foundation will establish the BRPF Excellence Fund in Spinal Cord Injury Research at **Marquette University** and will fund research done primarily by Dr. Murray Blackmore, associate professor of biomedical sciences and one of the foremost spinal cord injury neuroscience researchers in the country.

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- In Fall 2019, **Mount Mary University** will launch the Compass Year – a yearlong program for students who have not yet chosen a major – which provides career, vocational and self-exploration, along with core classes, designed to set students on track to graduate in four years.
- **Alverno College** and the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) have established a formal partnership that streamlines the transfer process for female students who want to become social workers, allowing them to complete their associate's degree in human services at MATC and transfer to Alverno to complete their Bachelor of Social Work. If students follow the proper course sequence at MATC and Alverno, they can graduate in four years. Alverno recently formed a similar partnership with Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC), allowing students with a human services associate's degree to apply their credits to a Bachelor of Social Work at Alverno.
- **Silver Lake College of the Holy Family's** RN to BSN Completion Program is now 100 percent online and offers partner organizations their first course free and a tuition discount thereafter. Accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, Silver Lake College of the Holy Family's RN to BSN Completion Program requires 120 credits, of which 90 credits can be completed through transfer. Courses begin once every eight weeks, with the next beginning March 11.
- **Northland College** has added a minor in sustainable agriculture.

R.I.P

- **T. Michael Bolger, J.D.**, the longest-serving president and CEO in the 125-year history of the **Medical College of Wisconsin**, passed away on November 29, 2018.