

THE WISCONSIN INDEPENDENT

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

SUMMER 2019 VOL. 51 NO. 2



INDEPENDENT INSIGHTS

WAICU Ambassadors advocate for student aid

WAICU engages in continuous year-round advocacy for Wisconsin Grants. The Wisconsin Grant program is the primary state-funded, need-based financial aid program for Wisconsin students. Wisconsin Grants are an economic investment in the future for the state of Wisconsin as the grants help to provide opportunity for low-income students, who may not otherwise be able to pursue higher education, to earn a degree and help to fill critical workforce shortages in nearly every occupation. Additionally, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis has estimated that any increases in financial aid targeted at students below the 45th percentile of parental income will be self-financing through future tax revenue.

In the last session of the Legislature, Governor Walker and the Legislature provided a five percent biennial increase

in the Wisconsin Grants appropriation. We continue to express our gratitude for this welcome increase after nearly a decade of flat funding.

Several months ago, I announced the newest feature of our advocacy, the “WAICU Ambassadors” program to enable students to move into leadership roles as advocates for Wisconsin Grants. In the WAICU Wisconsin Grant Student Ambassador program, students are selected by their financial aid director and WAICU through a competitive application process and receive training on becoming effective advocates. On April 10, 2019, WAICU held a WAICU Student Ambassador Day at the Capitol where 40 students and their staff liaisons visited their own legislators, legislative leadership, and Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes to share their stories on how student financial aid

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- Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design
- Milwaukee School of Engineering
- Mount Mary University
- Nashotah House
- Northland College
- Ripon College
- St. Norbert College
- Silver Lake College
- Viterbo University
- Wisconsin Lutheran College

Number of graduates from WAICU members increases over past 10 years

Wisconsin faces an urgent workforce crisis: baby boomers are retiring in droves, and with a decline in births, there are fewer young people to replace retirees in the workforce. Furthermore, it is estimated that 60 percent of American jobs will require higher education by 2025, while the most recent estimates from 2017 showed that only 50.5 percent of working-aged Wisconsinites held a postsecondary degree or credential.

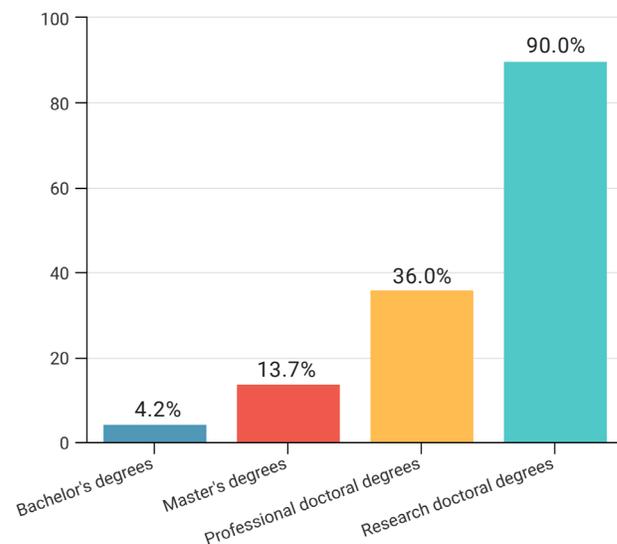
As the economy continues to demand more college-educated workers, WAICU members are addressing the challenge. Over the past ten years,* the total number of degrees awarded by WAICU-member colleges and universities has increased by 7.2 percent with much of the growth occurring in advanced degrees.

WAICU members’ commitment to diversity and inclusion is reflected in the 45.4 percent increase in the number of degrees awarded to ethnic minority students over the same ten-year period.** As WAICU members move forward, access to opportunity for all students who wish to pursue college remains at the forefront.

*2008 to 2018, the most recent year for which IPEDS data are available.

**The category “two or more races” was first added in 2011 and is included in this calculation.

Percent increase in degrees awarded at WAICU members (2008-2018)





The best way to find out which college is the right fit is to visit campus. This year, Wisconsin's 24 private, nonprofit colleges and universities will host their 23rd annual Wisconsin Private College Week July 8-13. Students, their families, and school counselors are invited to take advantage of this joint open house to learn more about the unique learning opportunities and campus life each college or university has to offer.

During Wisconsin Private College Week, participants will have the chance to tour campus, talk to admissions and financial aid representatives, and meet current students. Students will receive an entry to win a pair of Beats headphones for each campus they visit; the PCW evaluation form they complete at the end of their visit serves as the entry form.

The event is free to attend, and visitors can register online to tour the campuses of their choice at:
www.WisconsinPrivateColleges.org/visit.

New FAFSA completion status dashboard

For the first time, twelfth grade students' FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion status will be available to high school counselors and administrators in WISEdash for Districts. These data are available due to a new collaboration between the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Higher Education Aids Board. More information is available at:

dpi.wi.gov/wisedash/districts/about-data/FAFSA

SPRING COMMENCEMENTS

- **Alverno College** held its commencement ceremonies on May 18. Sharais Alvarado (M.S. in Community Psychology) gave the graduate invocation. At the undergraduate ceremony, the introduction was given by Jennifer Fierro-Padilla (B.A. in English), the invocation was given by Karen Marie Romantini (B.A. in Integrated Studies), and the student address was given by Sarah Goodle (B.S. in Nursing).
- **Beloit College's** commencement ceremony was held on May 19 on campus. Ms. Ruth Hamilton, a Beloit alumna and senior trial attorney in the Criminal Defense Practice of the Bronx Defenders, gave the commencement address and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Hernan Santacruz gave the student address.
- Rev. Dr. Wil Tab of Bellin Health's pastoral care was the Leona Waraksa Memorial Commencement Speaker at **Bellin College's** commencement ceremony, which was held on May 18 at the Weidner Center for the Performing Arts on the UW-Green Bay campus. The alumni speaker was Ms. Michelle Sheahan, and the student speakers were Olivia Letter (BSN), Melanie Haedt (BSRS), Shannon Thoma (BSDMS), and Angela Klein (MSN).
- **Cardinal Stritch University** held its commencement ceremonies on May 19 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. Mr. Howard Melton, Milwaukee resident and Holocaust survivor, and Mr. Daniel Bader, president and CEO of Bader Philanthropies, received honorary degrees at the undergraduate and graduate ceremonies, respectively.
- **Carroll University** held its commencement ceremony on May 11 on campus. The commencement speaker was Milwaukee Police Chief Alfonso Morales, who is a '92 Carroll alumnus. Chief Morales received an honorary doctorate.
- Ms. Dam Bich Thuy, founding president of Fulbright University Vietnam, provided the 2019 commencement address at **Carthage College**. President Thuy also received an honorary degree. The commencement ceremony was held on May 26 in the N.E. Tarble Athletic and Recreation Center on the Carthage College campus.
- **Concordia University Wisconsin** held its graduate commencement ceremony on May 17 and its undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 18 in the R. John Buuck Field House on campus. The commencement speaker for both was Mr. Todd Teske, CEO and President at Briggs & Stratton Corporation, Wauwatosa Wisconsin. Rev. Dwayne M. Lueck, president of the North Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.
- The **Edgewood College** commencement ceremony took place May 19 at Veterans Memorial Coliseum at the Alliant Energy Center. Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Shirley Abrahamson received an honorary Doctor of Law degree.
- **Herzing University** Madison held its commencement ceremony on May 18 at the Crowne Plaza in Madison. Executive Vice President of Slipstream Doug Bremicker gave the commencement address. Herzing University Brookfield's commencement ceremony was held on May 18 at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts. Brookfield Mayor Steve Ponto gave the commencement address and Ian Anderson was the commencement student speaker. Herzing University Kenosha held its commencement ceremony on May 5 at the Grand Geneva in Lake Geneva, WI. Wisconsin State Senator Van H. Wanggaard gave the commencement address. Teresa Aparo, a BSN graduate, gave the student address.
- **Lakeland University** held three commencement exercises on its main campus on May 11. Speakers were Dr. Susan A. May, president and chief executive officer of Fox Valley Technical College; Ms. Eloise Anderson, former Wisconsin Secretary of Children and Families; and Mr. Marcus F. Lewis, Higher Education Division Manager of the Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department. Each commencement speaker received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.
- **Lawrence University** held its 2019 Commencement on June 9 on the campus' Main Hall Green. Ms. Lee Shallat Chemel, a 1965 Lawrence graduate who directed iconic television series such as "Murphy Brown," "Northern Exposure," and "Gilmore Girls" during a robust career as a television and theater director, was the commencement speaker.
- **Marian University's** commencement ceremony was held on May 18 on the Marian University Quad. The student speaker was Demond Mettlach, an English major and psychology minor from Watertown.
- Mr. David Brooks, the New York Times best-selling author and political commentator, served as **Marquette University's** commencement speaker on May 19. As part of the university's commencement ceremony, he received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree. Sister Ann M. Durst, SHCJ, founder of Casa Comelia Law Center in San Diego, received an honorary Doctor of Law degree during the ceremony.
- The **Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW)** held the commencement ceremony for its Milwaukee graduates at the Miller High Life Theater in Milwaukee on May 17. Bruce (BJ) Miller, M.D., gave the commencement address and received an honorary Doctor of Medical Science degree. Ms. Virginia K. Bolger, Mr. Robert David Curry, Mr. Stephen A. Roell, and Dr. Shelagh M. Roell received honorary Doctor of Humanities degrees. The commencement ceremony for MCW Green Bay graduates was held on May 31 in the Walter Theater on the St. Norbert College campus in De Pere. The commencement ceremony for MCW Central Wisconsin graduates was held on May 30 at the Rothschild Pavilion in Rothschild.
- The **Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD)** held its commencement ceremony on May 11 at the Pabst Theater in Milwaukee. Mr. Dale Shidler, Chair of 2D/4D Design at MIAD, was the faculty speaker. Tony Holz, Reed Skocz, and Tommy Moore were the student speakers.

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The Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center awarded top honor, among top 30 clinical research centers in the United States

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI) National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) recently designated the MCW Cancer Center as a Lead Academic Participating Site (LAPS) for the strength and innovation of its ongoing research and science and robust participation in its clinical trials. The MCW Cancer Center is one of only 30 institutions in the United States to achieve this designation, and the only institution in Milwaukee and the eastern Wisconsin region.

This designation pushes an already outstanding and high-potential clinical research enterprise to the next level of scientific engagement, research driven treatments and outstanding clinical care.

To earn this honor, the MCW Cancer Center met objective external measurements, including excellent scientific leadership in the design and conduct of research, and confirmation of robust participation in the NCTN and other cooperative group trials.

"We are thrilled to announce this honor, and I am especially thankful to the patients and families who trusted us to put them, or their loved one, on a cancer clinical trial," said Jim Thomas, M.D., Ph.D., interim co-director of the MCW Cancer Center. "The bravery and selflessness of these patients means that we are now recognized as one of the top 30 cancer centers in the country. Now, their friends and neighbors have access to even more cutting-edge cancer treatments—right here in their own backyard."

For cancer patients treated throughout the Froedtert & MCW Cancer Network,



Fabian Yu, Ph.D. and Ph.D. candidate Robyn Oldham conduct research at the MCW Cancer Center, which has earned a top designation from the National Cancer Institute.

the LAPS grant adds national recognition and resources to the institution's renowned cancer research, clinical trials programs and disease-specific treatment teams rooted in academic medicine. The LAPS grant also includes resources, funding, and a network of collaboration, discovery, and applications available to only the top cancer centers in the country. ■

Play originally written and rehearsed in the Terezín Ghetto in 1944 performed at Stritch

CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY

In an unprecedented partnership, Cardinal Stritch University's Theater program, the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center (HERC), and the Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center presented the Milwaukee

premiere of *The Last Cyclist* in April. The play was performed at the Nancy Kendall Theater in the Joan Steele Stein Center for Communication Studies/Fine Arts on the Stritch campus.

Reconstructed and reimagined by playwright Naomi Patz, *The Last Cyclist* is based on a 1944 cabaret written by Karel Svenk in the Terezin Concentration Camp, located in the Czech Republic. Audience members were invited inside the makeshift rehearsal space to bear witness to a show that was never performed due to its not-so-subtle political and emotional commentary.

For the Milwaukee performances, Stritch students worked alongside professional actors

and theater artists for a unique and powerful presentation.

"*The Last Cyclist* is both a unique and important artistic experience," said director Mark Boergers, who is chair of Stritch's Theater program. "It gave us the opportunity to go further than depicting the horrors of a time like the Holocaust, but also represent the creativity and resilient spirit that existed. In the extreme degradation of the Terezin camp, artists devised a comedic, yet scathing, political satire that epitomizes art's role in resistance. This will have an impact on our students as actors and, just as important, as people."

The opening night gala featured a talkback with Patz and Boergers.

The innovative collaboration led to a unique preparation for the cast, crew, and production team. Milwaukee resident Howard Melton shared a first-hand account of surviving the Holocaust and his commitment to spreading hope. Dr. Dan Haumschild, the HERC Holocaust Education Fellow, shared his expertise as the cast researched their respective roles in the play. ■



The Last Cyclist was performed at Cardinal Stritch University. Photo courtesy of Traveling Lemur Productions.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

New MIAD Innovation Center combines technology and creativity to design solutions for Wisconsin companies, nonprofits, and entrepreneurs

MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN

Technology meets creativity at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD). The college recently launched the MIAD Innovation Center, creating a hub where students apply technology in unrivaled ways on projects for businesses, nonprofit organizations, and entrepreneurs.

Fort Atkinson-based ink360, a 360° bottle printing company, engaged MIAD students to create illustrations demonstrating the company's unique printing technology. MIAD faculty and ink360 staff mentored students, and students were paid for their work. The students delivered more than 60 bottle designs, and ink360 owners extended offers to hire the students after graduation.

"Our work with students at the MIAD Innovation Center was an incredible experience. Students were ... not afraid to venture into new territories that our path



In addition to bottle printing company ink360, the MIAD Innovation Center is collaborating with the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Milwaukee Ballet, and *BizTimes'* *Innovate Wisconsin* magazine.

took. I was most impressed with ... how diverse the students' finished products were from one another," said Mr. Ken Matthews, ink360 owner.

Ms. Emily Verbeten '19, an illustration major who worked on the project, said the MIAD Innovation Center offers an invaluable opportunity for students to

experience what it's like to work with professional clients. "It serves as a jumping off point for any young artist to work professionally before graduation or to get started on projects of their own outside of coursework."

The MIAD Innovation Center also serves as an incubator for students in all majors to take ideas to market and engages students and the community in educational programming.

Professional experiences students receive throughout the curriculum and via the MIAD Innovation Center are vital to their education,

leading to national accolades for MIAD. MIAD is among the top three art and design colleges nationwide for helping low-income students attain upper-middle-class jobs, according to Money Magazine, and GDUSA has named MIAD a Top Design School for four consecutive years. ■

Wisconsin Lutheran College receives \$5.2 million gift to support campus growth

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE



WLC's dedicated science building, Generac Hall, will feature state-of-the-art classrooms and labs.

Thanks to a \$5.2 million anonymous gift, Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) is expanding its dedicated science building, creating a sports performance and training center, and enlarging the college's fitness center.

Over the past 10 years, WLC's enrollment has grown by more than 70 percent. For the

current academic year, the college reported its highest-ever first year enrollment, which represents a 26 percent increase compared with 2017-2018.

WLC recently established a College of Health Sciences to support the rapidly growing health care industry. Approximately 30 percent of WLC students are pursuing careers in the health and life sciences.

To meet this increased demand, the lower level of the college's dedicated science building, Generac Hall, will be outfitted with additional classrooms designed to encourage teamwork and utilize interactive teaching technology. New anatomy and physiology labs will offer more space and maximize hands-on collaboration. A Sport and Exercise Science suite will provide students with active and

participatory lab experiences. Students will use the same equipment for assessment and analysis as they will in the field. The expansion also includes two student gathering spaces.

Forty-five percent of WLC students participate in the college's 18 NCAA Division III intercollegiate varsity sports. An increase in student-athletes necessitates a build-out of the Recreation Complex. The new Sports Performance Center offers an enlarged, comprehensive weight room and a dynamic exercise area. New dedicated spaces for golf, baseball, and softball will focus on year-round training and include state-of-the-art simulators and practice spaces. The expanded fitness center will contain the latest equipment to increase workout options for students.

As part of several separate gifts, WLC also will be restoring its running track at Raabe Stadium. The newly named Catalyst Track will be completed this summer. ■

Carroll University leads effort to shape future data science and analytics education at liberal arts institutions

CARROLL UNIVERSITY

Educators and researchers from across the U.S. traveled to Carroll University recently to begin shaping digital classrooms of the future to train the next-generation workforce at liberal arts institutions.

Carroll was awarded a \$100,000 grant by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to explore, along with 10 other liberal arts schools, how to best teach essential skills in data science and analytics.

“This is about preparing the next-generation workforce,” said Dr. Jane Hopp, vice president of the office of partnerships and innovation at Carroll. “This workshop will help design digital learning environments to meet the substantial need for data science and analytics educated professionals, promote

equity in learning, and help small liberal arts colleges and universities to contribute to the early development of these efforts.”

“Data science and analytical skills are increasingly in demand across virtually every industry, and we are committed to helping to meet that demand by providing our students with the digital tools to succeed,” said Carroll University President Cindy Gnadinger.

The workshop was just the first step in developing new ways to teach data analytics science at liberal arts institutions. The goal is to form a consortium to create content and tools for digital literacy that can be easily shared. This summer in Washington, D.C., John Symms, associate professor of mathematics at Carroll, will join other NSF grant recipients to share the Carroll group’s work.

Other schools participating are Drury University, Missouri; Emmanuel College,



Carroll University held a workshop led by a team of experts from the fields of learning science, team science, data science, and next generation digital learning environments.

Boston; Franklin University, Ohio; Hiram College, Ohio; LaGrange College, Georgia; Merrimack College, Massachusetts; Pacific Lutheran University, Washington; Presbyterian College, South Carolina; Ripon College, Wisconsin; and Seattle Pacific University, Washington.

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. (1824727). ■

Catalyst Day highlights achievements of new curriculum

RIPON COLLEGE

Catalyst Day, Ripon College’s public showcase of its new Catalyst curriculum, was held April 24.

Hundreds of faculty, staff, students, community members, alumni/ae, friends, admissions counselors, and family members attended Catalyst Day or tuned in remotely to celebrate the success of the first cohort of Ripon students to complete the new Catalyst curriculum and learn more about this unique approach.

Twenty-five interdisciplinary teams of juniors from the Applied Innovation seminar worked collaboratively to integrate knowledge and address one of five problems derived from the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals framework: food for all, mental health systems, climate change mitigation, water pollution, and reducing inequalities.

Student teams presented their semester-long work, proposals of an applied innovation, in conference-style format.



Students completing their capstone seminar in Applied Innovation gave presentations that tackled worldwide issues.

Presentations ranged from “The Positive Effects of Bringing Green Plastic Products to Ripon” to “Reducing Anxiety and Depression Among New College Students: Easing Transitions and Improving Student Health and Wellness Throughout College” to “Advertising Caffeine in Cosmetics and Pharmaceuticals to Prevent Damage to Freshwater Aquatic Wildlife.”

Details of the course, structure of

projects, and faculty development resources needed for success were developed in the fall by a team of faculty and administrators, thanks to ongoing support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Margaret A. Cargill Foundation.

Teams of students also competed in an Applied Innovation Hackathon, where they were asked to develop strategies that could be implemented by Ripon College to address rural poverty in Fond du Lac County.

The five-course Catalyst curriculum rigorously develops the 21st-century skills that employers seek while streamlining the path to graduation. It requires only five courses, for a total of 20 credits, culminating in a certificate of Applied Innovation and ensuring that students are able to complete multiple majors and minors, experiential study, and hold internships during their four years. Visit ripn.edu/catalyst-day to learn more. ■

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

New media studies major at Beloit aims to integrate disciplines

BELOIT COLLEGE



Dr. Joseph Bookman is a Beloit College faculty member specializing in media studies.

A new media studies major was approved by the Beloit College Academic Senate last December after three years of planning. Courses that have previously spanned multiple departments (Theatre, Dance, & Media Studies; English; journalism; art; and others) are now synthesized into a single media studies curriculum. Dr. Shawn Gillen, professor of English and journalism, led the effort to create the major and enthusiastically claims that it will “foster a [new] creative media environment” at Beloit. Gillen will chair the new department.

The aim of the new major is to enable Beloit students to study the interdisciplinary field of media studies under one academic roof. Dr. Joe Bookman, who was brought onto the faculty during the formation of the department, indicated that within the major, students will be able to specialize in one of two sides of media studies—the first being media production. This can take a number of forms, including

filmmaking, broadcasting, etc. The second is media theory, critique, and journalism. Students will be well-versed in both sub-specializations upon completing the major.

Dr. Michelle Bumatay, assistant professor of French, was also key to the formation of the new major. Her interests include teaching of the numerous French scholars important to media theory and bringing a multilingual dimension to the curriculum.

Bookman and Gillen emphasized the academic personalization available within the major. In addition to specializing in either the production or theoretical sides of media studies, Bookman wishes for students to be able to “create on their own terms, actualizing their own visions.” This combination of student-centered skill-honing and inherent breadth to the media studies curriculum makes this new major an exciting addition to Beloit College. ■

SPRING COMMENCEMENTS *continued from page 2*

- On May 25, the **Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE)** held its commencement ceremony at the Kern Center on campus. Mr. Kevin Fletcher, president and CEO of WEC Energy Group, received an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree and delivered the keynote address.
- **Mount Mary University** held its commencement ceremony on May 18 in the Bloechl Center on campus.
- On May 23, **Nashotah House** held its commencement exercises in the Noble Victory Memorial Chapel at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy in Delafield, Wisconsin. The Rev. Dr. Philip Turner delivered the commencement address. Dean Turner is a retired priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and served as dean of the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University.
- The **Northland College** commencement ceremony was held on May 25 in the Ponzio Stadium on campus. Ambassador Kai Sauer, permanent representative of Finland to the United Nations, delivered the commencement address and received an honorary degree.
- Dr. Marc Edwards, a professor of engineering at Virginia Tech and the lead investigative scientist uncovering the 2001-2004 D.C. Lead Crisis and the 2014-16 Flint Water Disaster, provided the keynote address and received an honorary degree at **Ripon College's** commencement ceremony on May 19 on campus. Mr. John Nelson also received an honorary degree. Nelson is an adjunct professor of engineering at UW-Madison; chairman of MEP Associates, LLC, an engineering consulting firm; and chief technical officer for Fitzgerald Asset Management, an infrastructure asset manager.
- Mr. Frank Shankwitz, creator and founding-CEO of the Make-A-Wish® Foundation, was the commencement speaker for **St. Norbert College's** ceremony on May 12 in the Mulva Family Fitness & Sports Center on the college's campus. Shankwitz received an honorary degree. The book on his life “Wish Man” is being made into a major motion picture. The movie will be released in 2019. The student speaker was Jasmine Babineaux, a graduating senior from Lafayette, Louisiana. Babineaux majored in writing and business management.
- **Silver Lake College of the Holy Family** held its commencement ceremony on May 11 in the Bob & Pat Endries Hall in the Franciscan Center for Music Education and Performance on campus. Amanda Laque, a psychology graduate from Two Rivers, was the undergraduate student speaker. Sara Suckow, a graduate of the Master of Science in Leadership and Organizational Development program from Plymouth, was the graduate student speaker.
- **Viterbo University's** commencement ceremony was held on May 11 at the La Crosse Center. Mr. Don Weber, founder and CEO of Logistics Health Inc. and a member of the Viterbo University Board of Trustees, provided congratulatory remarks. Allison Stoeffler gave the undergraduate student address and Sulaimon Adewale Elegbede delivered the graduate student address.
- **Wisconsin Lutheran College** held its spring commencement service on May 18 in the college's Recreation Complex. The speaker was Ms. Mary L. Heins, WLC Assistant Professor of Communication. Prof. Heins has taught at WLC since 1978; she will retire in June.

Student ambassadors

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has helped them pursue their degree and how they intend to become strong contributors to Wisconsin's workforce.

Additionally, WAICU has sponsored an informational campaign in partnership with Wispolitics.com, Wisconsin's premier political news service, to help our elected officials connect the dots that an investment in student aid is an investment in Wisconsin's future workforce, a pathway to addressing Wisconsin's critical workforce shortages.

Governor Tony Evers in his biennial budget proposed a 10 percent biennial increase in the Wisconsin Grants appropriation for students in all sectors. For students in the private, nonprofit sector this amounts to a \$5,630,900 increase that would bring our biennial total to \$61,992,300.

The Legislature's Budget Committee, the Joint Committee on Finance, recently voted to maintain current funding levels for the Wisconsin Grants programs as a first step in the budget review process. However, the budget process is not done. Given WAICU's continuous support for student opportunity and student financial aid, efforts will continue with the student ambassadors to share their stories and to share with policy makers that an increase in Wisconsin Grants funding is not only a win for students but also for the State of Wisconsin's economic vitality. The student ambassadors are working hard. Won't you join them?

Sincerely,



Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President



WAICU BULLETIN BOARD

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Dr. Dean Pribbenow**, VP for academic affairs/academic dean at **Edgewood College**, is one of 20 senior college administrators selected by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) to participate in the year-long Presidential Vocation and Institutional Mission program for prospective college and university presidents.
- A team of **Ripon College** faculty has received a National Science Foundation grant of \$297,715 for the project "Building Capacity for Interdisciplinary Quantitative Reasoning Instruction." Catalyst 120, a required course in which students develop skills that can be transferred to the workplace, focuses on quantitative reasoning.
- **Dr. Edwin Antony**, assistant professor of biological sciences at **Marquette University**, received a \$1.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for research that could influence future cancer treatments. The grant will support understanding how cells protect their DNA.
- **Meghan Murphy**, a **Lawrence University** senior from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, is one of 41 national recipients of a Watson Fellowship. She will spend her one year of Watson study and travel immersed in the traditions of the violin and violin-like instruments in India, Norway, Azerbaijan, Ireland, and Mexico.
- For the third consecutive year, **Edgewood College** has been honored with 2018 Tree Campus USA® recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to effective urban forest management.
- The Student Nurses Association (SNA) at **Herzing University-Kenosha** was awarded the Breakthrough to Nursing Award for their Lunch & Learn Series at the Wisconsin SNA Annual Convention in February.
- **Viterbo University** was awarded a \$23,427 grant from the Otto Bremer Trust to support the Community Assessment, Resources, and Intervention through Nursing Guidance, or CARING, initiative.
- **Wisconsin Lutheran College** raised over \$985,000 for student scholarships at its 2019 Divine Servant Award Celebration.
- **Aimeé Navarro Villegas**, a junior anthropology major at **Marquette University**, was one of 262 students named a Newman Civic Fellow by the Boston-based nonprofit group Campus Compact.
- Two **Alverno College** students, **Alejandra Gonzalez** and **Sarah Pearson**, received the 2019 Student Activist Award from the Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (WIPCS) for their work related to peace and justice in their communities.
- **Dr. Murray Blackmore**, associate professor of biomedical sciences at **Marquette University**, received a \$1.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for a project targeting the regeneration of injured nerve cells in spinal cord injuries. The grant is Blackmore's third \$1-million-plus grant in the past six years.
- Chuck and Karen Swoboda donated \$2.5 million to support the **Marquette University** men's basketball program and leadership development program in the university's Opus College of Engineering.
- A student team from **Ripon College** placed first in April in the undergraduate division of the International Business Ethics and Sustainability Case Competition at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California.
- **Dr. Robert Wheeler**, assistant professor of biomedical sciences, and **Dr. John Mantsch**, professor and chair of biomedical sciences at **Marquette University**, received a \$1.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health that will fund research into disorders like addiction and depression.
- The *Healthy Food for All* partnership at **Edgewood College** has received the Esther Letven Campus-Community Partnership Award at the annual Campus Compact for Wisconsin (CCWI) Civic Engagement Institute, held in March.
- **Dr. Donald Nelson**, a retired orthodontist with a strong conservation ethic, donated \$500,000 to the **Northland College** Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute to expand youth outdoor programs and forest ecosystem research and restoration.
- **Cardinal Stritch University** junior **Destiny Vang** won first place in the prestigious Delta Epsilon Sigma (DES) National Scholastic Honor Society writing competition for her creative fiction submission of "The Country of Wanderers." Her work will be published in an upcoming edition of the *DES Journal*.
- **Marquette University's** College of Business Administration has named its Women Business Leaders speaker series in honor of June and Herman Loebel, thanks to a generous gift of \$1 million to advance women in leadership within the college.
- **Marquette University** received a \$1 million gift from alumnus Barry Cosgrove to support first-generation college students in the College of Business Administration and journalism majors.

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WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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Susan B. Anthony

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

THE WISCONSIN INDEPENDENT

Vol. 51 No. 2, Summer 2019

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WAICU
122 W. Washington Avenue, Suite 700
Madison, WI 53703-2723
608.256.7761, fax 608.256.7065
www.waicu.org
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WAICU BULLETIN BOARD *continued from page 7*

APPOINTMENTS

- **Dr. Rolf Wegenke**, WAICU president, has been reappointed to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact Commission by Governor Tony Evers.

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- **Lawrence University** is introducing a computer science major beginning in the fall. While the university previously offered a mathematics-computer science track, this new major will enhance learning opportunities in data science, software development, and other computer programming areas.
- In Fall 2019, **Carthage College** will launch a new Master of Music (M.M.) degree aimed at meeting the expectations for music theatre performers in an increasingly contemporary and commercial industry and preparing the next generation of master teachers and performers.
- **Cardinal Stritch University** now offers a certificate in transformational leadership through the Institute for Conflict Studies.
- A new agreement between the **Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW)** and **Viterbo University** will assure qualified undergraduate students at Viterbo University early admittance to the MCW School of Pharmacy upon graduation. The six-year program is comprised of three years of undergraduate curriculum at Viterbo, resulting in a Bachelor of Science degree, followed by three years of study in the PharmD curriculum at MCW.
- This fall, **Bellin College** will begin offering a new sonography certificate. The Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography Certificate program (DCS) is a fast-track adult echocardiography program designed for working sonographers registered in vascular technology (RVT) through the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS).

R.I.P.

- **Dr. Erno Dahl**, **Carthage College's** 19th president, died on March 12, 2019.
- **Dr. Robert R. Spitzer**, third president of the **Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE)**, died on April 30, 2019.