

THE WISCONSIN INDEPENDENT

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

SUMMER 2022 VOL. 54 NO. 2



INDEPENDENT INSIGHTS

Things I have learned – 30 years at WAICU

This is the 120th—and last—“Independent Insights” I will have written for WAICU’s newsletter, the *Wisconsin Independent*. Higher education is built on free and independent debate, but, equally important, it is built on our responsibility to advance knowledge. Over the course of the last 30 years I have had generous and engaging responses from our readers—but never a single bitter or intemperate message. The “Independent Insights” that generated the biggest response was the one I wrote about 9/11. I wrote in response to Stanley Fish’s statement that the terrorists were “just as educated” as anyone else. I argued that it is not a true education if it does not include the development of principled and moral understanding.

Recently, I was asked for some “last-minute advice” for Wisconsin’s private colleges and universities. As I think about it, my advice is, and always has been, rooted in what I have learned from the college and university presidents who constitute the WAICU Board. **I learned:** Stay focused on the mission. WAICU’s mission is “Wisconsin’s private, nonprofit colleges and universities working together for educational opportunity.” I can say that not a day has gone by in the last 30 years in which I have not thought of and been influenced by this mission. **I learned:** A critical factor in WAICU’s success is the willingness of WAICU members to be bold and take risks. In this period, more than 45 cost-saving initiatives have been undertaken by WAICU, with cumulative savings of \$250,784,747. In the same



Dr Rolf Wegenke with the WAICU presidents in April

period, Wisconsin Grants totaling \$681,405,467 were awarded to 301,145 Wisconsin students. **I learned:** if you think big, you have the opportunity to accomplish big things. Finally, **I learned:** Nothing that has been accomplished would have succeeded to this extent without leadership. The presidents and administrators of WAICU-member colleges and universities stepped out of their comfort zone and encouraged their colleagues to do the same. WAICU staff also worked long and hard—and smart—in making these visionary programs a reality.

One more thing **I learned**—from my parents—is to say thank you. THANK YOU! ■

Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President

- 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
- Viterbo University
- Wisconsin Lutheran College

WAICU announces Dr. Eric Fulcomer as next President

The Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) Board of Directors has announced Dr. Eric Fulcomer as its next President and CEO beginning mid-December 2022.

Dr. Fulcomer is the current President at Rockford University. With almost 30 years

of experience in higher education, he is a longtime university administrator and has developed a broad understanding of various organizational functional areas including strategic planning, government relations, fiscal management, and fundraising.

“I look forward to continuing WAICU’s

mission of ‘Working together for educational opportunity,’ with a focus on student financial aid at both the state and federal levels,” said Dr. Fulcomer.

“On behalf of the WAICU board and our twenty-three member schools, we are thrilled that Eric Fulcomer has agreed to

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The 26th annual joint open house of WAICU members—Wisconsin Private College Week (PCW)—will be held July 11–16, 2022. Prospective students, their families, and school counselors are invited to visit WAICU-member campuses to learn more about the unique educational opportunities and campus life each private, nonprofit college or university has to offer. This annual statewide open house will feature a range of events, from admissions and financial aid information sessions to major-specific and athletic programs, in addition to opportunities to connect directly with faculty and current students. Students will receive an entry form at each campus they visit to win prizes such as \$100 gift cards and a pair of AirPods; the PCW online evaluation form they complete at the end of their visit serves as the entry form.

To view event listings and register: WisconsinsPrivateColleges.org/visit.

SPRING COMMENCEMENTS

Alverno College held its commencement ceremony for both graduate and undergraduate students on Saturday, May 21 in the Pitman Theatre. The student address, “The Next Generation of Greatness,” was given by Dajana Draca, who received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business & Management.

Bellin College’s commencement ceremony took place at the Weidner Center on Saturday, May 14.

Beloit College held its commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 15.

Cardinal Stritch University’s commencement for both undergraduates and graduate students took place on Sunday, May 15 at The Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee.

Carroll University held its undergraduate commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 7.

Carthage College celebrated the Class of 2022 on Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22.

Concordia University Wisconsin held its undergraduate student ceremony on Saturday, May 14. The commencement speaker was Dr. Dale Meyer, president emeritus and professor emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Edgewood College held commencement on Saturday, May 14 and honored candidates for both undergraduate and graduate degrees during two outdoor ceremonies on campus.

Herzing University will hold commencement ceremonies for their Brookfield, Madison, and Milwaukee campuses on Saturday, June 4 at Miller High Life Theatre in Milwaukee.

Lakeland University held its 160th commencement on Saturday, May 7, in the Woltzen Gymnasium in the Wehr Center. Ken Leinbach, executive director of the Urban Ecology Center, addressed the Kellett School undergraduate ceremony and Richard V. Poirier, president and CEO of Church Mutual Insurance Company, addressed the traditional undergraduates.

Lawrence University will hold its 2022 Commencement on Sunday, June 12. The Commencement speaker will be actor Anthony Mackie, who has become Marvel’s new Captain America and is set to star in the upcoming Peacock series, Twisted Metal.

Marian University held its commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 7 at the university’s Herr Baker Field.

Marquette University hosted an undergraduate commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 22, at Henry Maier Festival Park in Milwaukee. NBA legend Dwyane Wade served as the commencement speaker.

The **Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW)** held its graduation ceremony on Friday, May 20 at the Miller High Life Theatre in Milwaukee.

Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD) held their commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 7 at The Pabst Theater.

The **Milwaukee School of Engineering** commencement took place on Saturday, May 21 at the MSOE Kern Center. Dr. Dwight Diercks ’90 delivered the keynote address. Diercks is a member of the MSOE Board of Regents and the senior vice president of software engineering at NVIDIA.

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Carthage College professor to lead entrepreneurial studies program

CARTHAGE COLLEGE

Professor Kevin Crosby has been inspired by the entrepreneurial culture in the space sciences program at Carthage College. He now is setting out to infuse that same spirit of innovation throughout the institution.

Carthage appointed Crosby the Hedberg Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurial Studies.

“Most people think of entrepreneurship as starting your own company, which is certainly something we’ll cultivate—and that’s just the starting point,” Crosby said. “Entrepreneurial thinking breeds success for everyone. It’s about having an innovative mindset, solving problems that matter, and creating value in your community.”

Influenced by lessons from his own well-rounded career, the late Donald D. Hedberg (a 1950 Carthage graduate) established the faculty endowment in the 1990s. Crosby’s work will expand on the blueprint of the groundbreaking ScienceWorks program, which benefited the college’s natural science

majors for more than 20 years.

In tandem with faculty and The Aspire Program, Carthage’s exclusive career development sequence, Crosby will encourage all students—regardless of major—to develop creative solutions to real world needs.

Since joining the Carthage faculty in 1998, Crosby has taught a variety of physics and computer science courses. He will maintain his roles as director of the Carthage space sciences program and the NASA Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium.

Crosby is especially eager to help faculty and students with promising ideas tap into venture capital and grant funding, something that has been a hallmark of his research



Professor Kevin Crosby

career. He has been awarded more than \$14 million in grants and contracts.

He already mentors regional entrepreneurs with gBETA, a free accelerator program for startups with Wisconsin roots. This is just one more example of the innovative culture that Crosby has seen blossom in the region over the past decade.

“We don’t have to reinvent the wheel,” he says. “It’s coming to us.” ■

Edgewood College joins call for *Laudato Si'*

EDGEWOOD COLLEGE

On Earth Day, April 22, 2022, President Andrew Manion made it official: Edgewood College has committed to participate in Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si’: A 7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology*.

In a signing ceremony, part of a special Earth Week Mass in St. Joseph Chapel, Manion signed the letter of commitment that will be sent to the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. The signing was witnessed by dozens of attendees, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, and several Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, the founding order and sponsor of Edgewood College.

“This is the start of an important journey, and we are honored to join the other Catholic colleges and universities around the world, and here in the U.S., in this important work to care for our common

home,” President Manion, said.

As a new *Laudato Si'* Institution, Edgewood College will chart a course through the Journey, with the assistance of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. In the coming 2022-23 academic year, the College will gather a group of students, faculty, staff, administrators, and neighbors to develop a *Laudato Si'* Action Plan that will address each of the seven *Laudato Si'* goals:

- Respond to the Cry of the Earth
- Respond to the Cry of the Poor
- Foster Ecological Economics
- Adopt a Sustainable Lifestyle
- Offer Ecological Education
- Develop Ecological Spirituality
- Support Local Communities

Edgewood College will report to the Dicastery each year on its progress, and pledges to participate with other institutions around the world on the Journey around the world. ■



President Andrew Manion signs the letter to be sent to the Vatican, marking Edgewood College as a *Laudato Si'* Institution

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Marquette alumnus donates \$15 million to create state-of-the-art Lemonis Center for Student Success

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

Marquette received a \$15 million gift in February from alumnus and television star Marcus Lemonis to create the Lemonis Center for Student Success, which will provide wraparound services for students across all majors, academic abilities, and backgrounds to enrich and expand student opportunities.

Lemonis, star of HGTV's *The Renovator* and CNBC's *The Profit*, and chairman and CEO of Camping World, graduated in 1995 from Marquette's Helen Way Klingler College of Arts and Sciences.

Marquette will rename its Memorial Library to the Lemonis Center for Student Success and house the new center in the highly visible, centrally located space on campus. The center will build on Marquette's Catholic, Jesuit tradition, helping students engage in thoughtful discernment infused in Ignatian education. Further, it will connect students with a network of advisers,

mentors, and resources from day one through graduation. The Lemonis Center will employ innovative technology and research to support students as they develop the skills and resilience to overcome challenges, from lack of connection and mental health crises to academic or financial setbacks.

"It is always important for (my wife)

Bobbi and me to create a clear path to success for every individual, no matter where they are from or what they are studying," Lemonis said. "As an alumnus who got the most out of my experience, it was paramount for me to highlight the things that worked and to strengthen the things that could get better. This initial gift is the start of building the road for others."

Provost Kimo Ah Yun said, "We are sincerely grateful for this generous gift from Marcus, which will dramatically elevate the student experience. The Lemonis Center for Student Success will be a major step forward to help ensure that all students thrive beyond initial access and scholarship. support." ■



Marcus Lemonis announced at a February Marquette Men's Basketball home game that he is donating \$15 million to the university to create the Lemonis Center for Student Success

Nashotah House renews Dean Anderson's contract, restructures leadership to support continued growth

NASHOTAH HOUSE

The Nashotah House Theological Seminary Board of Directors recently renewed the contract of Dean Dr. Garwood Anderson for a five-year term.

Dr. Anderson has served as dean since 2017. He joined the Nashotah House faculty in 2007 as professor of New Testament and Greek and served as academic dean from 2009 to 2012.

Growth at Nashotah House under Anderson's leadership has included a 94 percent increase in full-time equivalent enrollment from 2017 to 2021, a growth rate that outpaces all of its peers nationally, according to a recent audit by the Association of Theological Schools.

During Anderson's tenure, the seminary has also added several new distinguished faculty members and collaborated with world-renowned visiting professors. Amid the pandemic, Nashotah House completed classroom renovations and technological

upgrades, greatly expanding capabilities for remote and hybrid instruction.

To support its growing programs and advance its strategic goals, Nashotah House recently restructured its leadership team. The new appointments to several key leadership positions set a foundation for the seminary to serve more students, nurture relationships with existing and prospective donors, and sustain the rigorous formation of its seminarians:

- Dr. Jim Watkins has been appointed associate dean of academic affairs to provide administrative leadership to the seminary's academic programs, in assistance to the dean and faculty.
- The Ven. Dr. Kelly O'Lear has been appointed associate dean for formation to oversee pastoral care, chapel worship, field education, and community life.
- Robin Little has been named senior director of advancement to steer all aspects of donor relations, alumni relations, and communications and marketing.

• The Rev. Jason Terhune will continue to serve as senior director of operations, with his oversight including accounting, student accounts, IT, maintenance, compliance, and human resources.

• The Rev. Dr. Travis Bott, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, has been elected chair of the faculty. ■



Dr. Garwood Anderson, dean of Nashotah House

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Stritch and Racine Unified School District partner to impact student reading success

CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY

Cardinal Stritch University and the Racine Unified School District (RUSD) have launched an innovative partnership to improve student performance and help offset the learning loss students are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 80 educators from RUSD are currently enrolled in Stritch's Reading Teacher Licensure program.

"The educators are able to apply what they are learning in our program to their work in their classrooms and have an immediate impact on their students' success," said Rhonda Schoonover, chair of Stritch's Literacy Department and an assistant professor in the Teacher Educator department. "Teachers from a wide range of grade levels and content areas are enrolled, so students of all ages and ranges of literacy development will benefit from this partnership."

The program prepares teachers, especially those who are striving toward literacy development in grades PK-12, to provide focused and intensive reading instruction. Educators who successfully complete the program are eligible for the State of Wisconsin Reading Teacher license.

"We are grateful for this partnership with Stritch," said RUSD Deputy Chief Academic Officer Janell Decker. "Working together, we



Students of all ages and ranges of literacy development will benefit from the partnership

are significantly increasing the number of teachers who have specific training in how to teach students to read. Putting these trained educators in front of students is going to make a difference."

Kristin Williams, a teacher at Walden III and Case High School, shared, "reading is a part of learning. Students cannot fully comprehend content texts if they are lacking the tools to successfully read them." Williams,

who earned her teaching license and a master's degree in secondary education from Stritch, will "have new tools and a better understanding of how to help students in my Literacy class as well as struggling readers."

Stritch has been a pioneer in literacy research, intervention and instruction since it was founded by the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in 1937 to prepare their members to become teachers. ■

Marian University embraces diversity

MARIAN UNIVERSITY

As a Marian tradition rooted in the core value of "community," the Cardinal Meyer Library holds a collection of 50 international flags highlighting Marian students from other countries. During the 2021-22 school year, the university added two more flags with a ceremony to honor the students.

Seraphine Kabogora is from the country of Burundi. It is one of the smallest countries in Africa and has one of the world's poorest populations. Seraphine's journey to her junior year in Marian's nursing program started as a 12-year-old girl bartering her family's goats to afford African boarding school. She came to the United States as a foreign exchange student at Lourdes Academy in Oshkosh. She encourages everyone to appreciate the privilege of education while challenging us to remember that privilege is not afforded and

available to everyone.

Growing up in the country of Tajikistan, in Central Asia, Ulughbek "Paul" Sadiev was born into poverty, spoke four languages by the time he was six years old, and helped his hard-working parents with their melon farm. Paul's journey to his senior year as a double major in accounting and finance began when he was one of 33 youth selected to participate in an exchange program (more than 33,000 applications were submitted). He is grateful for the freedom to study business – something that wouldn't be possible in his home country due to the heavy emphasis on



Cardinal Meyer Library is home to 50 international flags, each representing the nations of citizenship of students who have attended Marian University

farming and agriculture studies. He credits his father with encouraging him to explore the opportunities this big world offers.

These opportunities allow for the Marian community to embrace unique differences, celebrate a sense of belonging, and come together while learning from the global classroom. ■

become WAICU's next President. Eric is a dynamic and creative leader who will help WAICU and its member schools navigate the challenges facing higher education in the twenty-first century. The strategic and community-based approach that Eric demonstrated as President of Rockford University will serve WAICU well, especially as we look to develop new and innovative partnerships with the private sector, institutions of higher education, and the government. We would like to thank Rolf Wegenke for his thirty-year tenure leading WAICU and are grateful to have found such a strong candidate to lead WAICU into its next chapter," said Dr. Michael Lovell, WAICU Board chair and president of Marquette University.

Dr. Fulcomer stated, "I have often said that one of the greatest joys of being a university president is helping students achieve their



Incoming WAICU President Dr. Eric Fulcomer

dreams. I believe serving as President and CEO of WAICU will allow me to help

students throughout the state of Wisconsin, at each of the 23 WAICU-member schools, to achieve their dreams through advocating for independent higher education, providing scholarship support, and helping institutions save resources that can be reinvested into students on their campuses."

Dr. Fulcomer earned a Bachelor of Science degree in English Language and Literature from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan, his Master of Arts in College Student Personnel from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, and Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio. He was recently appointed to the Board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI). ■



SPRING COMMENCEMENTS *continued from page 2*

Mount Mary University's commencement ceremony was held on campus as a socially-distanced event in the Bloechl Center on Saturday, May 21.

Northland College's commencement ceremonies took place on Saturday, May 28. Commencement speakers included Northland College Board of Trustees Chair, Chad Dayton, President Karl I. Solibakke, Dean of the Faculty Alan Brew, and student speaker Aja Gregg '22.

Nashotah House's 176th Commencement took place on Thursday, May 19. The commencement speaker was poet and singer-songwriter the Rev. Dr. Malcolm Guite.

Ripon College held its commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 15.

The commencement ceremony for **St. Norbert College** was held Sunday, May 15 at the Campus Center.

Viterbo University's spring commencement took place on Saturday, May 14 at the La Crosse Center. Tony Welch, a sport management and leadership student, gave the undergraduate student address. Sr. Helen Elsbernd, a member of Viterbo Ministries and the Board of Trustees, provided congratulatory remarks.

Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) held its spring commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 21 in the college's Recreation Complex. Rev. Dr. Mark E. Braun, WLC professor emeritus of theology, was the keynote speaker.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Students from **Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE)** took first place in the WEF Wastewater category at the Central States Water Environmental Association Student Design Competition.

Two teams of students from **Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE)**'s chapter of the American Society for Mechanical Engineering (ASME), won first and third place in the world, respectively, in ASME's annual Student Design Competition.

Northland College received a STARS Gold rating, **Beloit College** and **Lawrence University** received a STARS Silver rating, and **Marquette University** has received a STARS Bronze rating in recognition of sustainability achievements from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

A \$7 million gift by the Fotsch Family will establish a new center and endow a directorship in the Opus College of Engineering at **Marquette University**.

In recognition of **WAICU President Dr. Rolf Wegenke's** retirement this summer, Governor Tony Evers presented him with a State Certificate of Commendation on April 27.

Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE)'s Concrete Canoe Team took first place in the Western Great Lakes Regional Competition. They will travel to Louisiana this summer to compete in the American Society of Civil Engineers National Concrete Canoe Competition.

Four teachers from across the country will take flight as embedded teachers with the **Carthage College** Microgravity Team. The teachers and their experiments will experience eleven minutes of weightlessness during a series of two-hour flights aboard the ZERO-G G-Force One Aircraft.

Alverno College has opened a new location in Mesa, AZ.

Marian University's nursing students earned a 96 percent pass rate for all testers in 2021 on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

Lakeland University has signed transfer agreements with four Wisconsin technical colleges to make it easier for students to complete a bachelor's degree. Lakeland's Fox Cities Center will relocate to the Fox Valley Technical College's Appleton campus.

Alverno College has teamed with Kohl's to launch a scholar program. Five Alverno College students will receive \$5,000 scholarships in the 2022-23 school year.

Dr. Vince Salyers, dean of the Ruth S. Coleman College of Nursing and Health Sciences at **Cardinal Stritch University**, is a recipient of the Excellence in Nursing Research Award, presented by Sigma, the international nursing honor society.

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

In the fall of 2022 **Edgewood College** will launch a new Master of Art in Art Therapy program. The program will train art therapists to use art in supporting mental health and wellness restoration.

Edgewood College is now enrolling students in a new Master of Science in Thanatology program. Graduates will be equipped as specialists who are knowledgeable about the dying and grieving process.

APPOINTMENTS

Lawrence University celebrated the inauguration of President Laurie A. Carter on May 13 in a ceremony in Lawrence Memorial Chapel. Carter, the 17th president since Lawrence was founded in 1847, began her tenure on July 1, 2021.

Dr. Isabelle Cherney has been elected to serve as **Mount Mary University's** 13th President, beginning on July 1.

The **Ripon College** Board of Trustees has announced that Dr. Victoria N. Folse, currently of Illinois Wesleyan, has been elected to serve as the 14th president of Ripon. She will begin in July.



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*“An investment in knowledge
pays the best interest.”*

Benjamin Franklin

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

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2022 Advocates in 2022 Campaign

Help increase WAICU’s student financial aid advocacy base to **2,022 advocates** by the end of this year.

Link to sign up: <https://lnkd.in/e26HTarj>

Or use this QR code:



2022 Advocates in 2022 #WIGrants **#DOUBLEPELL**

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