

# A Mission-Inspired Community

*Marian University alumni reflect on the impact  
of the Mission and Core Values*



**E**ach moment matters. Every hour, minute and second is an opportunity to live, to serve, to succeed and to inspire positive change in our own lives and in the lives of others. It is our purpose — and mission — to make a difference in our world through each of these moments. To some, a mission is just another statement or saying. To others, it's a personal reflection of one's values, a call to action and a guiding light for the future.

For Marian University, the Mission and Core Values go hand in hand with the impact and value of the Marian experience, especially since inspiring more than 14,000 alumni to make a difference in their own lives and leave a mission-inspired legacy in their path.

### **Spiritual Traditions at the Heart**

With strong convictions and passion for service, the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes set out more than 75 years ago to create and develop a quality educational environment at Marian University.

For Sister Judith Schmidt, CSA '63, Marian and its mission have always had a spot in her heart. Schmidt's 22 years of service to Marian were filled with passion, and she continues to be a supporter of the university's purpose in the community.

"After graduating from Marian with my education degree, I took



*"The Mission and Core Values are what drive us to success. Marian will continue to grow, as will the community's passion for living our Mission and Core Values."*

— Sr. Judith Schmidt '63

all that I learned and applied it to my teaching and leadership within the schools I worked in and through CSA," said Schmidt. "From my role with Marian's adult and continuing education department to serving in mission development, the Marian community is one that I treasure deeply."

Throughout her time at Marian, Schmidt felt called to serve in as many areas as she could, and was an integral part in the development of the Mission and Core Values.

"The development of our core values really changed the landscape and future of the university," said Schmidt. "They are our belief system. The foundation of Marian and CSA is focused on our spiritual heritage and our calling in life. These values all are interwoven together — you cannot have one without the other. We all need them, not just here at Marian, but as we go out into the world and live out our calling."

### **A Quality Learning Environment**

As an academic learning environment, the focus and value of learning is central to the success of the university, illustrated by how Marian's academic support and attention to a personal, applied experience inspired James Goodfellow '09, to achieve more.

"I knew Marian's learning environment was what I needed," said Goodfellow, a native of Naperville, Ill. "After graduating high school, I wanted to continue my education while still feeling the camaraderie with an athletic team. Marian allowed me to do both."

For Goodfellow, learning did not always come as easy as making a goal or a home run, but because of his hard work, determination and support from Marian's faculty and staff, his dreams became a reality.

"Marian's faculty want students to succeed, and through the EXCEL

program, I was able to do it. As a two sport athlete in hockey and baseball, I appreciated all of the support and resources that Marian provided for me," said Goodfellow.

Goodfellow continues to live the value of learning, both through professional development opportunities in his role as a Client Services Consultant with Hibu, as well as through his service to Marian as an assistant baseball coach.

"Students — and student-athletes — at Marian have the opportunity to make an impact after graduation," said Goodfellow. "Living the Marian experience, I enjoy mentoring student-athletes and sharing the 'student first, athlete second' mentality, and how lifelong learning helps you succeed in the future."

### **A Focus on Social Justice**

With a Mission centered on welcoming individuals from varied experiences, Marian's focus on social justice continues to transform individuals to help others and embrace integrity in our world, much like Doug Edelstein '06, who serves Winnebago County as the Assistant District Attorney.

"Marian is accepting of all types of people, and I learned that from an early point in my college search," said Edelstein. "Social Justice has always been at the core of my upbringing. It's not



*"Learning is at the center of the University, and can be seen through its Mission and Core Values."*

— James Goodfellow '09



*"It's not hard to live the Mission at Marian — both in the classroom and in organizations. Through both of these facets, your character and values are illuminated..."*

— Doug Edelstein '06

our place to discriminate or make poor choices that affect others and our world — we're here to be of service and to move toward a common goal."

Edelstein's dedication to justice began at Marian, where professors assisted him in gaining the foundational skills in order to reach his goal of becoming a lawyer.

"It's not hard to live the mission at Marian — both in the classroom and in organizations," said Edelstein. "Through both of these facets, your character and values are illuminated, and Marian's professors want to support your goals and what you want to do in life."

For Edelstein, Marian's Mission and the Core Value of Social Justice are carried with him through his role as an assistant district attorney, as well as an adjunct professor in Marian's School of Business and Public Safety.

"It's all about doing what's right under the circumstances," said Edelstein. "During my more than four years of practicing law, I have strived to represent the values and beliefs of society. It's my job to go beyond and make a bigger difference, while setting an example for the future."

Whether in the court room or back on Marian's campus, Edelstein continues to appreciate these values and takes responsibility in serving to better our world.

## Inspiring Community

Continually inspiring students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Marian, the Mission and Core Values serve as the fabric that holds together the Marian University experience. For Caroline (Coughlin) Lampereur '93, the strand of community is a key component of success at Marian University.

"Marian is truly about the people," said Lampereur. "Whether in the 1990s, or when I visit the campus today, it's the people who make the experience and the community so vibrant with possibility. Each individual is his or her own color and is a part of the fabric that is Marian."

Inspired to get involved, Lampereur served as a Resident Assistant in Regina Hall and as a member of one of the first cross-country teams, all while earning a degree in education.

"Community at Marian is about all the elements of your experience — the classroom, the residence halls and the social and athletic activities. It's about your whole experience," said Lampereur.

"As an educator, I believe this sense of community is necessary for a positive learning



*"Marian is truly about the people. Whether in the 1990s, or when I visit the campus today, it's the people — faculty, staff, students and alumni — who make the experience and the community so vibrant with possibility."*

— Caroline Lampereur '93

experience, and I strive to do my part to welcome others, join together and lead our community into the future."

With more than nine years of serving as an educator, Lampereur currently serves her own local community through several organizations.

"Each individual within the community can be thought of as a strand of color that is woven together to make a beautiful tapestry — each one playing a significant role in its future," said Lampereur. "With the fabric of the Mission and five Core Values, the Marian experience can be seen as a vibrant tapestry of success that will remain solid and strong for many years to come."

## Living our Mission-Inspired Legacy

Marian University, like many forward-thinking organizations, places its

Mission and Core Values as the vision for the future. As a community of learners, Marian students, faculty, staff and alumni have been given an incredible opportunity to take the lessons learned from the Marian University experience and share them with the world, allowing the mission to be shared and to inspire positive change. ■