

## President's Message

*Founded by courageous leaders, Marian celebrates its core commitment to values-based education*

September 8, 2011, marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the courageous decision made by the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes to open an institution of higher education. They did so in order to allow their members to pursue teaching degrees and to student teach in their habits; something that was not permitted at the public university with which the Congregation had previously partnered.

The institution the Sisters founded in 1936 — Marian College — has grown into the institution we know today as Marian University, where approximately 2,900 students pursue an extensive array of majors at the undergraduate and graduate level.

Within this publication, we celebrate all that has taken place during the first year of my presidency. It was a year of discovery and learning, as I experienced the rich legacy created by our founders. Much was accomplished during this year by the Marian faculty, staff, administration and students, and I invite you to read about these endeavors in the articles that follow.

During the 2011–12 academic year, our students will experience the fruits of those labors as they embrace a renovated dining room in the Hornung Student Center with improved access and dining options, upgrades to classrooms, academic program enhancements, a new indoor athletic recreation facility, renovated outdoor recreational spaces, and more.

They will also experience our undying commitment to our mission, our core values and our vision of transforming lives through academic excellence, innovation and leadership.

There is still so much more that we can accomplish, and I look forward to working with the members of the Marian community, as well as with our benefactors, alumni and friends, to bring Marian to her full glory on all fronts: fiscal health, stable and quality enrollment, increased fundraising, a meaningful student experience, beautification of the campus, and engagement of the local and regional community.

We thank you for your relationship with Marian University and wish God's blessings upon you.

Sincerely,



Steven R. DiSalvo, Ph.D.  
President  
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## Year-long events celebrate Marian's 75 years of higher education

*The many facets of Marian University will sparkle during its diamond anniversary year.*

Banners on the Johnson Street bridge herald the institution's 75 years in Fond du Lac and the University will celebrate throughout the year, according to Kate Candee, vice president, Office of Mission and Retention, and chair of the anniversary planning committee.

Founders Day on Sept. 8 officially launched the year-long festivities. The campus celebrates this date annually, in acknowledgement of the commitment to education made by the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes (CSA). When barred from student-teaching in public schools while wearing their religious habits, the

sisters petitioned to create their own college. Sister Aloysia Leickem became Marian's first president and Sister Vera Naber was Marian's first academic dean when the school opened as Marian College with eight faculty, and 17 full-time and 25 part-time students on Sept. 8, 1936.

"Marian University is the only educational ministry of the CSA," Candee said, noting that the congregation pursues health care ministry through the Agnesian system in Fond du Lac and at sites around North and South America, including Milwaukee, Chicago, New York, Arizona and Nicaragua. "We were one of the first private colleges to offer an accelerated adult program, which began more than 20 years ago. The Sisters are pioneering women and all about serving others."



**IT WAS A MODEL YEAR** — Members of Marian's Student Senate hold a banner celebrating the University's 75th anniversary as they prepare to participate in Fond du Lac's Labor Day parade. Student leaders (Steven Pombue '12, Kelsey Beine '13, Angela Via '14, and Kim Schoenemann '12), faculty and staff rode in the 1936 International Truck Company C1 pickup loaned by Don Gardin, spouse of Executive Assistant to the President Carey Gardin. The University and the truck share the same "birth" year.