

## Ripon Medical Center Joins Agnesian HealthCare



*L-R: Joan Karsten, RMC interim CEO, Robert Fale, AHC president and CEO, and Mary Noel Brown, CSA, executive leader of sponsorship for the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes, sign the affiliation agreement*

Ripon Medical Center has become the latest health care provider to join the Agnesian HealthCare system. Leaders from both organizations signed papers for a full affiliation on May 31. The definitive agreement outlines the commitment to plan for a replacement hospital in Ripon, enhance service lines, and implement an electronic medical record at RMC. RMC will retain its name.

“We are very pleased to welcome Ripon Medical Center to Agnesian HealthCare,” said Robert Fale, AHC president and chief executive officer. “Our common goal is to serve our communities with the finest health care, close to home, with compassion and respect that will lead us together into the future ...”

“Much like Ripon Medical Center, Agnesian HealthCare was founded 115 years ago by a

group of visionary women from the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes,” he continued. “They had the courage to do what was right for the community. They set a high standard for those who would follow, and we are proud to continue this rich tradition with this renewed vision with Ripon Medical Center.”

“Pooling our talents, skills, and resources through this affiliation secures quality health care close to home for the residents of our community,” said Joan Karsten, RMC interim chief executive officer. “This opportunity strengthens health care for our patients and the extended communities we serve, while allowing for local governance for our community hospital. We could not be happier about this affiliation with Agnesian HealthCare.”

During a special commissioning ritual, board members and leaders from RMC and AHC planted a seedling using soil from the communities served by the two organizations. Mary Mollison, CSA, AHC vice president of ministry and spirituality, remarked, “You – individually and collectively – are the growers, the gardeners, the farmers, continuing the planting begun by those who came before you. To grow the seeds of local health care, we have to do what is required to grow anything of true value: We have to tend the garden, feed and water the seeds, harvest the fruit, and then prepare the soil for new planting. In other words, it is cyclic – a never-ending work ...”

The foundation for RMC remains a separate structure outside of the affiliation and continues its mission of providing philanthropic support to benefit RMC.

## Many Traditions, One Call

The focus of the 2011 Governance and Leadership Forum is *Many Traditions, One Call*. Over the past few decades, the religious and cultural landscape of our country and the people we serve has changed significantly. Today our neighbors, colleagues, the patients we serve, and the students we teach are often of varied cultural backgrounds and faith traditions. Our tradition and our common call to ministry compel us to build a culture that welcomes persons of all faith traditions as we continue Jesus' mission of love, teaching, and healing.



Sister Annelle Fitzpatrick, CSJ, Ph.D., an associate professor at St. John's University in New York, will share similarities and points of synergy that Christianity and Catholicism have with Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, and Sikhism. For example, the Holy Quran has an

entire chapter dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Hindus have sacraments, and the Sikh religion has a religious meal called "Holy Parshad," often referred to as the "Mystical Meal", akin to the Christian ritual of Holy Communion.

Some of our colleagues of different faith and cultural traditions, including Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Hmong, will share their experiences of living in our local communities and ministering with us at Marian University, Monroe Clinic, and Agnesian HealthCare.

It is hoped that by learning about other faith traditions, those involved in CSA ministries will grow in realizing that beyond some doctrinal differences, there are deep spiritual beliefs and values that unite people of all faith traditions.

We invite board members and leaders of CSA sponsored ministries to join us at this timely and

informative, interactive forum. The forum will be held on October 21 and 22 at Marian University in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Further information and registration materials will be mailed in late summer.

## April CSASM Meeting Highlights



*L-R: Joan Schilke, CSASM chair; Mary Haddad, RSM, Catholic Health Association; and Mary Noel Brown, CSA, executive leader of sponsorship*

CSASM members were pleased to welcome Mary Haddad, RSM, senior director of sponsor services for the Catholic Health Association, as a guest at the April 28 CSASM meeting.

Sister Mary had been visiting selected health care sponsors throughout the country to assess their needs and ascertain how CHA could be more responsive to those needs. She spent two days with Sister Mary Noel Brown, executive leader of sponsorship, learning more about CSA's model of sponsorship.

"With integrity" were words Sister Mary used to describe how she saw CSASM members carry out their responsibilities in concert with the mission and values of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes and those of the CSA sponsored ministries.

At the April CSASM meeting, Class A Members (CSA general council) and Class B Members (CSASM) of CSA Sponsorship Ministry welcomed new CSASM members Romana Klaubauf, FSPA, and Larry Pheifer through an entrusting ritual.



L-R: Larry Pheifer; Romana Klaubauf, FSPA; Doris Klein, CSA, Class A Member; Joan Schilke, CSASM chair; Joann Sambs, CSA; and Mary Noel Brown, CSA

“You do not walk alone in sponsorship,” Sister Joann Sambs, CSA general superior, assured them. “You join others who have been walking the holy ground of their personal and communal call and tending the divine flame of sponsorship for CSA.”

“Members of CSASM, I accept and am grateful for your continued commitment to partner with us as sponsors of the ministries entrusted by God and the church to CSA,” Sister Joann continued. “Be disciples of the One who began all of this. Attend to the Fire in your heart, and wisdom, courage, and hope will come to you ...”

## *CSA Sponsored Ministries*

### **Promotions Announced Across the Ministries**



management.

**Bonnie Schmitz** has been promoted to vice president and chief financial officer for **Agnesian HealthCare**, effective June 27, 2011. She will be responsible for managing all of AHC’s financial services, treasury functions, materials management, and health information

Bonnie, a certified public accountant, has been with AHC for 22 years, all in the finance area. She began her career with St. Agnes Hospital as a financial analyst and was later promoted to director of finance. Most recently, she served as AHC’s assistant vice president and controller.

Steve Little, AHC executive vice president, said that Bonnie had built the best finance team he has worked with in his career. “Her promotion represents Agnesian HealthCare’s ongoing commitment to prepare future leaders within our organization,” he said. “We have a strong recruitment and retention strategy in place to help develop our employees internally to move into new and more challenging roles.”



she will lead the clinic’s “first impression” services such as registration, concierge services, and switchboard, as well as retail operations such as nutrition services, the optical shop, the gift shop, and the retail pharmacy.

**Cindy Werkheiser** has been promoted to vice president of service excellence at **Monroe Clinic**. In her new role, she will be responsible for guiding strategic initiatives in service excellence and process improvement throughout the organization. In addition,

“Both continuous improvement and service are two of our core values,” said Cindy. “Process improvement brings us together to improve the way we do our work and the way we serve others. Our strength to pursue excellence in both is grounded in our core values of compassion, integrity, and respect. Striving for operational and service excellence through process improvement allows us to achieve the highest standards in health care.”

Before joining Monroe Clinic’s management team, Cindy served on the clinic’s Board of Directors.



**Kate Candee** has been promoted to vice president for mission and retention at **Marian University**. She will serve as the administrative officer who supports the fulfillment of the mission and core values of the university and will also work to develop programs, policies, and procedures related to student success.

In this new role, Kate will foster efforts to engage the university in a deeper understanding and integration of the Catholic intellectual tradition, social teaching, and moral teaching into student learning. She will seek and foster concrete ways to highlight and integrate the university's mission and core values across campus and will mentor campus leaders to foster and increase mission-related programming and integration into their school or department.

Kate has been with Marian for 20 years. She has served in many capacities, including principal investigator/project director for the Department of Education Title III grant, director of the sport and recreation management program, and most recently as executive director of the Office of Learning, Engagement and Retention.

### **Monroe Clinic Selected for Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative**



Monroe Clinic has been selected for participation in Transforming Care at the Bedside (TCAB), part of an innovative nationwide health care quality program funded by the Robert

Wood Johnson Foundation.

TCAB brings together teams from 16 Wisconsin hospitals to lead improvements in the quality and safety of patient care. It is a nurse-led hospital program that engages frontline staff to identify, pilot, test, and adopt new practices over an 18-month period.

At Monroe Clinic, the medical/surgical nurses are taking the lead with this program. They will be sharing successes and lessons learned with both staff and regional partners. "Sharing information and successes, both internally and externally, affects the quality of care our patients receive," said Paula Elmer, chief nursing officer at Monroe Clinic. "Our participation in this program shows our commitment to leading health care improvements and increasing efficiency to produce better patient experiences and outcomes."

"This program is a great fit for us," she continued, "as it aligns with other process improvement initiatives at Monroe Clinic. Oftentimes, the best solutions and changes are discovered by those closest to the work. In this case, our nurses are empowered to make key decisions affecting patient care."

### **Presentation Offers Clarity on Health Care Reform**

On a rainy spring morning, nearly 40 area leaders came together in Monroe to hear Paul Lee's perspective on health care reform and legislation. A founding partner of Strategic Health Care, a Washington, DC-based firm, Paul works as an advocate for clients on matters pending with the U.S. Congress, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and other federal agencies. Monroe Clinic hosted the event.

Mike Sanders, Monroe Clinic president and CEO, told those gathered that Monroe Clinic invited Paul to come to Monroe because the enormity of this topic is such that many people aren't sure what to expect – employers and



*Paul Lee*

employees, families, and individuals. “How will these changes impact our ability to be successful in business, do our jobs, and access quality health care?” he asked.

“When we are fine, the first thought [people have] is that health care costs too much,” Paul said to the crowd, explaining the unique cultural expectations of Americans on health care. “The second thought is that we don’t care about cost when we are sick.”

Paul’s presentation examined many areas of the complex topic, from the partisan atmosphere in Washington, DC, to the rising cost of health care in government spending. He explained the political process moving forward, while taking time to explain insurance exchanges, coverage mandates, elimination of pre-existing conditions, preventive care, and “grandfathered” employer insurance plans. A video of the entire presentation can be accessed at <http://www.monroeclinic.org/news/>.

## **Hospital Advocacy Day in Madison**

Board members, hospital staff, and volunteers from CSA health care ministries recently joined nearly 800 hospital supporters in Madison at the Wisconsin Hospital Association’s Advocacy Day. The annual event connects hospital advocates with their legislators in Madison so lawmakers can hear about what hospitals are doing to improve quality, increase transparency, and expand access to care in their communities.

Attendees heard from keynote speaker Jim VandeHei, co-founder and executive editor of Politico, the highly influential national political media outlet, as well as from Governor Scott Walker. A bipartisan panel of leading legislators debated important health care issues and answered questions submitted by attendees.

“With the state budget being debated in Madison, we wanted to make sure our legislators know how changes will impact our community hospital,” said Mike Sanders, Monroe Clinic president and CEO. “Advocacy Day gives us the opportunity to meet with our legislators and reinforce the hospital message with them.”



*Monroe Clinic representatives at Advocacy Day, L-R Dave Deininger (board chair), Laurie Schimek (medical records), Mark Thompson, MD (chief medical officer), Liz Carroll (marketing/community relations), and Mike Sanders (president and CEO) discuss key budget issues with Wisconsin State Representative Janis Ringhand*

Advocacy Day attendees asked legislators to keep two priorities in mind when debating and voting on the state budget:

- ◆ Preserve the Medicaid safety net for the most vulnerable populations in Wisconsin
- ◆ Minimize cost shifting to employers and employees from unreimbursed Medicaid costs and uncompensated care

Wisconsin hospitals provided almost \$1.2 billion in community benefits, gave uncompensated health care services to 1.2 million patients, and participated or sponsored nearly 60 free clinics across the state over the past year.

## SPOTLIGHT ON: Marian University Nursing Students



*Danielle Grable (L) and Kylie Brull (R), Marian 2011 nursing graduates, with Chris Laurent, assistant professor of nursing*

Nursing students at Marian University have been texting for a cause. As part of a service-learning project, students partnered with New Beginnings in Fond du Lac to educate women experiencing high-risk pregnancies. New Beginnings is a home-like residential facility for pregnant women who are often in their teens, homeless, and jobless. The staff provides these vulnerable women with a safe place during their pregnancy, helps them develop parenting skills, and gives them an opportunity to change the direction of their lives.

“We needed to come up with a way to meet the needs of these women in a special way,” said Christine Laurent, assistant professor of nursing. “We took into consideration how teens get their information – through text messaging, reality shows, and from their peers –

and it isn’t always accurate. We wanted to meet their education needs in a way that was responsive to how young people learn.” Instead of writing brochures or handing out pamphlets, Marian students enrolled in the prenatal newborn class wrote text messages about prenatal care and then sent them out to pregnant moms at New Beginnings.

Ten senior nursing students worked on the project, researching and developing appropriate messages to help the moms-to-be move through their pregnancies in a safe and knowledgeable manner. They developed text messages on stages of pregnancy, prenatal development, nutrition and healthy choices, symptoms to watch for, feelings, and hormonal changes. “The focus is on teen pregnancy, so we decided to compose the messages as if they were coming from the baby, to facilitate bonding,” said Kylie Brull. *Hi mom, I can wiggle my fingers and toes!* is an example of one text message. “We developed this project because we wanted to do something beneficial and make a difference. Marian’s values of social justice and service to others by being responsive to their needs have become our values,” Kylie said.

“It was exciting to see the progress,” said fellow nursing graduate Danielle Grable. “We were eager to get this program moving and see where it took us. I knew that I was helping people who may not always get the attention and assistance they need. Perhaps they will pass this information on to others.”

What started out as an eight-hour project morphed into a two-semester endeavor and is still evolving! Future goals include developing a variety of text messages, some in Spanish, some for grandparents, and others for the expectant father. In addition, the students hope to raise \$2,000 to purchase a software program that would automatically send out the text messages to expectant moms throughout the entire pregnancy. Danielle, Kylie, their classmates, and Professor Chris Laurent truly helped to transform the lives of the pregnant teens they accompanied through their pregnancies. The journey of service and transformation through text messaging will continue with future prenatal newborn classes at Marian.

## Marian Sophomore Named Newman Civic Fellow



Taylor Putz, a Marian University sophomore from Fond du Lac, was recently named one of 135 Newman Civic Fellows by Campus Compact. Dr. Fred Newman, one of the founders of Campus Compact, had a tremendous impact on

American education and its role in the development of citizens who are eager and prepared to make a difference. He dedicated his life to creating systemic change through education reform.

Like Dr. Newman, Taylor works to find solutions to issues of social justice on campus and in the larger community. He was a founding member of, and still advises, Fond du Lac's Students Taking Action Against Negative Decisions (STAAND), a group that works in collaboration with the school district, law enforcement, businesses, and parents to educate youth in an effort to reduce substance abuse in the community. His work with STAAND evolved into a position as a youth specialist with the Drug Free Communities of Fond du Lac County. Due to his successes in Fond du Lac, Taylor has been sought out by people from around Wisconsin to participate in their programs and serve on their prevention committees.

Taylor understands the positive social change that one individual can make, and he works tirelessly to help others realize their potential for making change.

"Taylor is an outstanding student representative who continues to live the Marian core values, as demonstrated by his words and actions," said Dr. Steven DiSalvo, Marian president. "I look forward to working with Taylor next year as he takes on the role of Student Senate

president and, together, we continue to move Marian forward."

## Marian University Presents Degrees to 378 Graduates

Marian University's spring commencement ceremony on May 14 featured the awarding of 256 undergraduate degrees, 119 graduate degrees, and 3 doctoral degrees.



*Nicole Weinert accepts her diploma from Dr. DiSalvo*

Dr. Steven DiSalvo, Marian president, spoke to those present about the value and impact that each student has as a Marian graduate. "You have been inspired by those around you to reach or exceed your highest potential," he said. "And you do this with the dignity and grace that every Marian graduate holds true."

"You have much to celebrate as your hard work and dedication has led you to this achievement," he continued. "And while the future brings many unknowns and limitless possibilities, your academic credentials will be with you forever. You earned it, and we are truly blessed to share in the celebration of your achievement of academic excellence."

Mary Galligan, special agent in charge of the Cyber/Special Operations Division of the FBI's New York field office, was keynote speaker at the commencement.

She challenged graduates to inspire others and work toward achieving their goals. "You sit here today in the middle of your American Dream," she said. "You are receiving a degree from Marian University; you have learned what the word 'community' means; and you have learned how we must all fight for social justice. You know about service to others ... you need to grab hold of your dream and run with it."

## Marian Breaks Ground for Indoor Athletic Facility

Marian University recently broke ground on an indoor athletic training and general recreation facility that will be located west of the Herr-Baker baseball field. The 17,000-square-foot facility will be constructed on undeveloped campus land on the southeast corner of east Division Street and Prairie Road.



*L-R: Dick Baker, Gary Smith, John Korb, Mary Noel Brown, CSA, Dr. Darold Treffert, Wayne Matzke, Terri Emanuel, Dr. Steven DiSalvo, Jean Steffes, CSA, Joann Sambs, CSA, Joel Cohen*

“This facility will benefit Marian students by providing additional space for our athletes to practice during inclement weather and allowing all students indoor recreational space for programming,” said Dr. Steven DiSalvo.

The new facility will be geared toward the baseball and softball programs but will give all the sports programs the opportunity to train indoors during inclement Wisconsin weather. It also provides the flexibility for practice for additional sports, camps and clinics.

The only collegiate facility of its kind in Wisconsin, Marian's indoor recreation facility will feature sports turf indoor flooring, four batting cages with drop-down netting, a 90-foot baseball field, a 60-foot softball field, and ample practice room, viewing, and reception space. All Marian students will benefit from the facility for intramurals and general recreational activities. The facility also allows for the reallocation of the Sadoff Gymnasium space for additional University programming.

Upcoming CSASM Meetings
June 23
October 20
October 20 and 21 Governance and Leadership Forum
December 15
February 17, 2012
April 19, 2012
June 21, 2012

### Web Sites:

Sisters of St. Agnes	<a href="http://www.csasisters.org">www.csasisters.org</a>
Agnesian HealthCare	<a href="http://www.agnesian.com">www.agnesian.com</a>
Marian University	<a href="http://www.marianuniversity.edu">www.marianuniversity.edu</a>
Monroe Clinic	<a href="http://www.monroeclinic.org">www.monroeclinic.org</a>

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