

Liffrig Family School of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Alumni Newsletter


Connecting Alumni with the University
of Mary and the Greater Community

October 2014



University of Mary

Christian, Catholic and Benedictine, the University of Mary exists to serve the religious, academic and cultural needs of people in this region and beyond.

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 www.umary.edu

Dr. Rod Jonas

The Dean's Message



About Dr. Jonas

Dr. Rod Jonas was appointed the University of Mary's Physical Education Program Director and Men's Head Basketball Coach in 1989. Seven years later, he joined the Department of Education, where he was promoted to Chair in 2005. When the Liffrig Family School of Education and Behavioral Sciences was established in 2010, Jonas was named Dean. His achievements include the 2006 Regents Award for Teaching Faculty. In 2008, Jonas became higher education's representative on the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board for a six-year term. Currently Jonas is President of the North Dakota Association for Colleges of Teacher Education. He lives in Bismarck, ND with his wife Shirley. They have two children and three grandchildren.

FOR 25 YEARS, I have enjoyed the tremendous privilege of membership in the University of Mary community as a coach, professor and administrator. Since 2010, I have been honored to serve as the Dean of the Liffrig Family School of Education and Behavioral Sciences, with the opportunity to lead a dedicated, student-centered faculty who truly live the mission of the University of Mary "to serve the religious, academic and cultural needs of the people in this region and beyond."

With my administrative team, I often use dictums from Joel Manby's book, *Love Works: Seven Timeless Principles for Effective Leaders*, such as: "Let's create a culture where great people want to work." This is exactly what we strive to realize and as a result, our professors are marvelous mentors who teach and interact with students according to the Benedictine values of community, hospitality, moderation, prayer, respect for persons and service.

Going forward, as we develop and improve academic programs, we will be guided by the inspiration of our President Emerita, Sister Thomas Welder, who often says: "The true distinctiveness of the University of Mary is found in the success of our graduates." Last year, for example, 100 percent of education graduates passed the teacher licensing exams, and everyone secured a teaching position.

We are so proud of our students and know they will make a difference in this world.

I would like to invite all alumni and their families to visit the Liffrig Family School of Education and Behavioral Sciences in Boniface Hall in the Benedictine Center and meet our current faculty, staff and students.

This will give me the opportunity to show you our beautifully renovated facilities, which were made possible by a generous donation from the Duane and Doris Liffrig family. The renovations include maple-framed faculty offices, state-of-the-art smart classrooms and a student resource room.

We are eager to give you a tour and reacquaint you with your alma mater. *Go Marauders!*



All Liffrig School faculty members support our student-centered, positive school culture, which furthers the implementation of the University of Mary's strategic growth plan, "Vision 2030: Education for Life," according to our Benedictine values.

Education Chair on Global Fellowship to China

THIS SUMMER, Dr. Brenda Werner traveled 6,000 miles to and from China as the climax of the 2014 Global Fellowship Program (GFP). The National Education Association Foundation awarded the fellowship to Werner and 29 other educators nationwide.

The Fellows first participated in a year of online learning about China's culture and education system. They also met with Chinese officials in Washington, DC to study the educational curricular structure that has placed China's high school graduates among the top performers on standardized tests in the world.

As research shows, there is no better way to learn about another culture and broaden global perspectives than by cultural immersion. GFP focuses on helping educators learn strategies for teaching students the academic and cultural competencies they will need in a global society.

The American educators collaborated with each other and with Chinese educators in studying the Chinese language, government, mores, religions and economy. The Fellows developed and shared content-area lesson plans, which integrate grade-level standards with global competencies, such as international awareness, appreciation of cultural diversity, proficiency in foreign languages and competitive skills. Teachers may access those lesson plans, free of charge, through the Master Teacher Project at <http://betterlesson.com/>.



At top, Werner's photo of the Terracotta Army from the first Qin Dynasty, over 2000 years ago, in Lintong, Xian, Shaanxi Province. Below, Werner photographed tourists boating on Kunming Lake, with Yu Feng Pagoda on Yuquan Hill near the Summer Palace in Beijing in the background.



Macie Harris ('15) teaching 4th-grade math in the Cadre program at Lewis and Clark Elementary School in Mandan, ND.

Successful Cadre Program for Student-Teachers

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARY provides students with the best integration of academics and practical application. Seniors majoring in education do short- and long-term practicums, such as the Cadre program in partnership with Lewis and Clark Elementary School in Mandan, ND.

At the end of September, Macie Harris, Alisha Gerving and Ranee Parker were in their seventh week of student teaching at the Mandan school. The three seniors form a Cadre, with each student teacher working with one of the school's three 4th-grade teachers. The seniors begin by observing the master teachers and then each week take over teaching a new subject.

Before and after school, each student teacher confers with her experienced teacher, who coaches methodology and gives feedback on performance. At lunch, the student teachers meet as a group to discuss lesson plans and what worked with students—or didn't. Also, the seniors meet with the three teachers as a group to share insights.

"This is our second year with the Cadre," said Susan Mills, one of the 4th grade teachers, "and we are very impressed with stellar quality of student teachers from the University of Mary."



Liffrig Family & Renovations to Liffrig School

The objective was to make the space open and inviting for interactions between faculty and students.

– Ben Zeltinger, architect

IN THE FALL OF 2011, the University of Mary's education and behavioral sciences school moved into newly renovated facilities in Boniface Hall. As can be seen in the photos, the transformation created a light-infused, beautiful and highly functional working and teaching environment. The renovations were made possible by a generous donation from Duane and Doris Liffrig, and their eight children and spouses. Honoring this support, the school was named the Liffrig Family School of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

The Liffrig family has supported Catholic education strongly for decades and contributed generously to University of Mary's capital and scholarship campaigns. Mr. Liffrig was appointed to the University of Mary's Board of Regents in 1982 and then named to the Board of Trustees in 2003. In 2012, Mr. Liffrig was designated Trustee Emeritus and his daughter, Julie Fedorchak, currently serves on the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Liffrig grew up on a farm in Makoti, ND and joined the National Guard after finishing university. He had successful careers as a financial consultant, real estate agent, investment broker and public official, including serving as North Dakota's highway commissioner.

Mrs. Liffrig was raised on a farm near Parshall, ND. She taught elementary school and then stayed home to raise her children. She also found an outlet for her creativity and observations as an author. For many years, she wrote a column for the Williston Herald. Mrs. Liffrig authored two children's books and an autobiography. Most recently, she wrote a column for the Dakota Catholic Action.

Throughout their lives, the Liffrigs remained connected to their rural upbringing, valuing family, faith and hard work, helping others, and having fun, especially with their 31 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



The ground-floor hallway of the Liffrig School before renovations.

New Faculty 2013-2014



2013 – KIMBERLY MARMAN, MEd is an Assistant Professor and Director of the Special Education Program. She is also the Director of the Emerging Leaders Academy for the Liffrig School's Education Department. Marman received her undergraduate ('03) and graduate ('11) degrees from the University of Mary. She taught for 10 years at public schools in Rapid City, SD and in Mandan, ND. Marman also served as president of the Bismarck chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children (2011-12). Currently, she serves as secretary for the local Sigma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, which promotes women educators.



2014 – HEIDI J. NIEUWSMA, MSW LICSW is an Assistant Professor and Director of the Social Work Program. She earned a BS in Social Work at Minot State University and an MSW at Florida State University. Her specialized training includes Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Therapy for Children. Previously she worked as an Advanced Clinical Specialist for the North Dakota Department of Human Services (2010-14) and as Head of the Social Work Department at the Strasburg Care Center (2008-10).



2013 – MARTHA REICHERT, MSW LICSW is an Assistant Professor of Social Work and the Director of Field Education for the Social Work Program. Reichert earned a BA in Social Work from the College of St. Scholastica and an MSW from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Her direct practice experience has been in medical social work, including mental health, long-term care, and hospice and palliative care. Reichert has also worked collaboratively on multi-disciplinary treatment teams providing care and support for youth, families and older adults.



2014 – MANISHA SAWHNEY, PHD is an Assistant Professor of Psychology. She earned her degrees in her native India: a BA in Psychology and Economics and an MA in Clinical Psychology at Himachal Pradesh University, and a PhD in Psychology at the University of New Delhi. Sawhney's academic awards include two Technology Group Awards from India's Defence Institute of Psychological Research. She completed postdoctoral research there in 2007 as a co-investigator in such projects as "Personality Profile of a Political Leader." Her main research areas include military psychology, depression and cardiotoxicity, morale and motivation, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

DR. JULIJANA NEVLAND joined the faculty in 2013 and is featured on page 6. **DR. CARMELITA LAMB** joined the faculty in 2014 and will be featured in the spring newsletter.



Dr. Julijana Nevland with her husband Zach Nevland at the Benedictine Center.

Psychology Professor Presented in Atlanta

DR. JULIJANA NEVLAND presented "APA Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major: From Concept to Implementation" at the Society for the Teaching of Psychology annual conference on October 10 in Atlanta, GA. The presentation marked the alignment of the University of Mary's psychology course outcomes and learning goals with the American Psychological Association's guidelines, mentioned above. This upgrade will better prepare students for graduate school and employment. In addition, Nevland developed several new psychology courses, including Forensic Psychology, Theories of Personality and Senior Capstone in Psychology.

Nevland earned an MS in Counseling at the University of Mary ('09) and then a PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of North Dakota ('13). She encouraged her husband Zach to complete an MS in Addiction Counseling ('13) at the Liffrog School. He now works as a licensed counselor at Charles Hall Youth Services in Bismarck.

Retiring Faculty & Staff

LEONA FRIEDIG started working at the University of Mary on October 1, 1993 as a secretary to the Division of Education. In 2010, when the Liffrog Family School of Education and Behavioral Sciences was established, she became the Administrative Assistant until retiring in May 2014. Friedig now enjoys time with her husband and her children and grandchildren.

GWYN S. HERMAN, PHD taught education courses for 13 years, most notably the Classroom Management course to all education majors. She also served as Chair of the Education Department and Program Director of Elementary Education. Since retiring in May 2014, she has enjoyed traveling to Europe, Russia, the Caribbean and Oregon. Herman has also remained involved in educational endeavors, including coordinating the writing of a new, online 8th-grade curriculum and giving teacher workshops. Most remarkably, she now rides a new Spyder RT Limited motorcycle.

NANCY KLEINGARTNER, MSW LCSW began teaching in the Social Work Program in 1996. She served for 14 years as the Director of Field Educa-

tion and then for the last four years as the Social Work Program Director. Highlights of Kleingartner's teaching career included establishing international field placements for social work students in Guatemala and India. Kleingartner retired in August 2014 and now enjoys time with her husband, children and grandchildren. She continues to serve on the board of the Dacotah Foundation and remains active in exploring the need for a mental health court in North Dakota.

BECKY SALVESON, PHD began teaching special education classes at the undergraduate and graduate levels in 1987. Seven years later, she served as the Coordinator of the Special Education Program. In 2005, Salveson began her role as Chair of Graduate and Distance Education. Her final project was to collaborate with colleagues on creating the new doctorate in education program, which is awaiting approval from accrediting authorities. Salveson retired in May 2014 and now enjoys "playing" and fishing with her husband and grown children.

Focus on Alumni: Dan Donlin

DAN DONLIN JOINED the Bismarck Police Department after graduating from the University of Mary in 1986. He rose steadily from Patrolman to Sergeant, Lieutenant, Deputy Chief and then to Chief of Police in January 2013. Simultaneously, for 15 years, Donlin served on the Bismarck SWAT Team as a sniper, team leader and assistant commander. He also worked as a detective sergeant, specializing in personal



Bismarck Police Chief Dan Donlin visited campus in late September to teach the Police Science class.

and property crimes.

In 2003, Donlin graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy and six years later, completed the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce leadership program. More recently, Donlin participated in the University of Mary's Emerging Leaders Academy as a mentor.

Donlin is the recipient of many awards, including the Bismarck Police Department's Medal of Valor Award, the Meritorious Service Award, the Hostile Engagement Award and the North Dakota Peace Officers Association's Life Saving Award.

Donlin is trained in Critical Incident Stress Management as a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Officer, helping police officers who have been involved in shootings and other traumatic events cope with distress and return to peak performance.

Currently Donlin oversees one of the two nationally accredited police departments in the state. The other agency is the North Dakota State Highway Patrol.

On September 29, the police chief came to the main campus to teach the police science class for Criminal Justice majors. "It is an honor to return to campus every year to interact and share my 26 years of law enforcement experience," Donlin said in an interview. "I seek to demonstrate the Benedictine value of servant leadership, while conveying the realities of police work and the positive impact law enforcement can have on the community."

Alumni Connections

Give Back to Liffrig School

Providing the best education for current and future students requires continual investments at an increasing cost. Please consider becoming a University of Mary donor. To do so, please go to www.umary.edu/giving to contribute by debit card or to pledge a gift by check.

In the News? Changes?

If you or your business has been in the news recently, please let us know. Also if you have changed your address, telephone number or career, please inform us via the "Keep in Touch" form, available at www.umary/forms/alumni.

Career Advancement

The only thing better than being a University of Mary alum is doing it again. The Liffrig School offers MEd and MSC (counseling) degree programs that might suit your career aspirations at an affordable price. Also, programs are offered online and through classes at satellite locations in Arizona, Minnesota, Kansas, Montana, Missouri and North Dakota.

Contact Info

For all alumni-related issues or for more information, please contact Paul Keeney, Director of Alumni by email (alumni@umary.edu) or by phone: (800) 408-6279 x8370 or (701) 355-8370.

MEd CIA Program & Teacher Shortage

THE MEd PROGRAM in Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (CIA) has experienced dramatic growth since 2008 when one student earned the degree. Last year there were 25 graduates. In response to the severe teacher shortage in North Dakota, the state is giving provisional teaching licenses to university graduates with degrees other than in education. Marissa Pewe teaches science and chemistry at Bottineau High School, and enrolled in the MEd CIA program to become certified. To advance her career, Kelsy Power, a certified, state-recognized teacher at Cathedral Elementary School in Bismarck, also chose the program. The MEd CIA's advantages include online classes with optional in-person components, affordable cost, financial aid eligibility and high quality.



Marissa Pewe, MEd CIA student, teaches high school science on a provisional license in Bottineau, ND.

New & Proposed

New MEd CIA program in Arizona

The University of Mary plans to offer a new MEd in Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment program for Catholic and other private K-12 teachers at the satellite campus at the Arizona State University (ASU) in Tempe. The program will blend online and in-person coursework, beginning in the spring 2015—pending approval from the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education. For more information, please contact Ryan Hanning at rahanning@umary.edu or **(480) 290-7058**.

The University of Mary, Tempe is the result of the first partnership of its kind between a public and a Catholic university. Academic programs are designed to supplement ASU's curricula with courses from qualified faculty in Theological and Catholic Studies. ASU

students can simultaneously earn a degree from the University of Mary. Since the Tempe campus opened in 2012, more than 100 students have enrolled, with 10 percent of these choosing the dual degree option.

New EDD Program

The University of Mary plans to offer a doctorate degree (EDD) in Education Leadership and Administration for the 2015-16 academic year, pending final approval from the Higher Learning Commission. The EDD would constitute the third doctorate degree conferred by the university. Already 243 potential candidates have expressed interest in the EDD, 81 of whom indicated they would apply for the initial cohort. Courses would be offered online and on site at the main campus in Bismarck. The new program would involve two calendar years (all three semes-

ters) of coursework and a third year to write the required dissertation. The deadline for the dissertation may be extended up to seven years from enrollment, with faculty approval. Applications will be due in early April. To learn more, please contact Dr. Carmelita Lamb at clamb@umary.edu.

Enrollment Growth at the Liffrig School

