

MARQUETTE PARENT

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2007



PROFILE: CLASS OF 2011

Who are they and what do they want?

By Tim Olsen

THE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE. Close to 1,800 new freshmen have joined more than 9,500 other students for the 2007-08 academic year at Marquette to begin or resume their college education. To learn a profession. To be enlightened. To grow.

Making generalizations about these students is difficult, but identifying common qualities can also be helpful. Many characteristics of the so-called Millennial Generation have been well-documented and discussed, including at Marquette — that they're arriving with more mental health needs and are technologically savvy, service-oriented and influenced by "helicopter parents."

"The fall 2007 freshmen lived in a digital technology world from birth and are digital natives," says Dr. Peggy Bloom, vice provost for undergraduate programs and teaching. "There is no change in students' enthusiasm for learning, just preferred modes of learning have changed. Digital natives have learned how to learn with the use of multi-media."

"Another piece is their entrepreneurial spirit," says Dr. Mark McCarthy, assistant vice president/dean of student development. "They want to start something, put their name on it and get credit for it."

This desire to create is evident in the explosive growth in student organizations at Marquette. If a group of students has an interest that isn't reflected by a current organization, they create a new one. After holding steady for many years, the number of student organizations increased from 151 in 2001-02 to nearly 250 now. Plus, the groups are addressing a greater breadth of political and social activity.

"The interests and experiences of the students are more diverse than ever before," says McCarthy. "Students seek out activities based on common interests, attitudes and beliefs, and we're seeing a

polarization of viewpoints regarding their politics as well as their religious beliefs. More students seem to be coming to campus with preconceived viewpoints on many issues. Others are searching for a sense of spirituality as a way to make meaning of their lives, asking 'What is the greater value or purpose for my college experience?'"

The importance of finding meaning in their lives is also reflected in the growing number of students who participate in service projects. "Service reflects values," says Dr. Stephanie Quade, senior associate dean of student development. "Many students come here because of the service-oriented nature of the campus. A lot of students participate in service, but some only to an extent."

"[Students] want to go deeper and learn about the problems behind the issue."

For a growing percentage of students, just participating isn't enough — they want to tackle the greater societal issues. "They want to go deeper and learn about the problems behind the issue," says McCarthy. "It isn't enough for them to feel, 'Isn't it great that I can work in a soup kitchen?' but instead they ponder the deeper issue of 'Why do we have soup kitchens?'"

"They start to recognize that life is more complex than they believed when they started college," says Quade.

Another significant influence on students' university experiences is whether or not their parents went to college, a factor Marquette began tracking with the 2006-07 freshman class. When approximately a quarter of the incoming freshmen are first-generation college students, a significant portion of the student body can't benefit from their parents' firsthand experience.

"If they can't rely on their parents for that perspective, they look elsewhere, often to their peers and the Internet," says Quade. "Even before they get here they're drawing their impression of the institution and college life in general from things the university has no control over."

Whether students are first-generation or not, though, they are increasingly being prepped for college throughout their lives. "These students have been 'tracked' by their parents to do all the right things to get into the best preschool, high school, and now college," says Bloom. "So once here they and their parents focus on what is essential to get the best career offers. The current answer seems to be internships and international experience."

Once the students arrive on campus, faculty and staff can encourage students to internships and international experiences, and to be selective in involvement outside of classes. Faculty and staff can also direct students to the many resources on campus that help them make the most of their university experience — such as academic advisers, the Counseling Center, Residence Life, Student Development, Student Health Service and University Ministry.

"A really important role staff and faculty have at Marquette," says McCarthy, "is letting students know they matter, that they're interested in students' lives. They actually open their doors to students."

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WELCOME!

As Parents Association National Co-chairs, we welcome all parents to get involved with the university as an association volunteer or board member. For more information about Parents Association volunteer opportunities, visit marquette.edu/parents/joinmupa.shtml. Want to get involved? Call Molly Dinolfo at (800) 344-7544.

Many thanks to the volunteers who made Family Weekend such a phenomenal success! And special thanks to current board members for their dedication and support.

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It's a big world

Marquette University Office of International Education

Marquette has a lot of big plans—and one of them is greater engagement of faculty, staff and students in international education initiatives. To accomplish this, in the spring of 2007, Marquette established a new Office of International Education.

Recently, we met up with its director, Terry Miller, who gave us his perspective on the mission and vision of OIE.

Q: What does OIE do?

A: We coordinate international education initiatives, including: recruiting international students and scholars; providing cross-cultural advising for international students; developing partnerships for collaborative research and student and faculty exchange relationships; creating international service learning opportunities; and developing education-abroad programs.

We also provide legal and cross-cultural advising to international graduate students, and administer an English as a Second Language program for them. OIE also offers a program for graduate teaching assistants. Marquette has more than 500 undergraduate and graduate students from 75 countries.

About 16 percent of Marquette graduates participate in a study abroad experience as undergraduates — about 500 students a year. The national average is 3 percent, so it speaks volumes about the value our students place on the study abroad experience. OIE manages the South Africa Service Learning Program as well as the Madrid Program, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary in November — truly a great success story.

Q: How do study abroad experiences benefit the Marquette community?

A: Having students from other countries in our classrooms, expressing perspectives from their worldview, enriches our classrooms. And certainly, study abroad experiences contribute to the global awareness of Marquette students.

A research study showed that when people between the ages of 15 and 25 have a significant cross-cultural experience, it is one of the defining factors in determining their vocational commitment to the common good. Here at Marquette that is expressed in the mission of forming “men and women for others.”

Q: What aspect of OIE are you particularly proud of?

A: Marquette’s South Africa Service Learning Program is a national model of international service learning. Marquette is one of only a handful of American universities with semester long service learning programs in

Capetown, South Africa. We are partnered with the Desmond Tutu Peace Center, which provides courses in which students connect the theoretical with the practical in service learning placements in Capetown townships.

Where Marquette students study abroad:

Australia
Austria
Belgium
Canada
Chile
China
Denmark
El Salvador
England
France
Germany
Greece
India
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Mexico
New Zealand
Puerto Rico
Scotland
South Africa
Spain
Wales

Q: What's next for OIE?

A: We want to increase the number of international students and scholars to provide greater diversity of worldviews on campus, and partner with overseas universities that provide Marquette faculty with teaching and research opportunities; such partnerships already exist with institutions in China, Japan, Germany and Poland, among others.

We also want to increase study abroad and international service-learning opportunities for Marquette students, and continue to develop *Marquette Global*, our e-newsletter.

Regarding our study abroad program, we want to increase and integrate our curriculum with overseas academic programs so freshmen can incorporate study abroad into their baccalaureate degree plans.

Q: If a student is interested in studying abroad, what's the first thing he or she should do?

A: All students should start by visiting the Office of International Education in the Alumni Memorial Union, Room 425, or by visiting our Web site at marquette.edu/oie. In both locations is the list of geographic locations where students can study overseas, and descriptions of how individual locations specifically fit with a student’s language proficiency and major.

We also request that all students attend a general information session, where they can get answers to all their questions. After the general session, all business majors should make an appointment with adviser Dr. Jamshid Hosseini; all other students should make an appointment with OIE’s Mindy Schroeder. Contact information for each is on our Web site.

Q: What does international education add to a student's Marquette experience?

A: As University President Robert A. Wild, S.J., has said, “We must prepare our students to succeed in a global society.” It is envisioned by Marquette that with the help and collaboration of deans, faculty, administrative staff and students, OIE will be at the vortex of preparing Marquette students both on campus — through the presence and vitality of 600 international students and scholars — and overseas, through academic programs, international curricular service-learning programs, internships and mutually beneficial educational partnerships — to become global citizens passionate about seeking a better world.

For more on international education at Marquette, visit marquette.edu/oie

To subscribe to the e-newsletter *Marquette Global*, call OIE at (414) 288-7289 or e-mail katherine.arnold@marquette.edu