

MUAA Speaker Biographies

January 2015

Rana Altenburg, Arts '88, is vice president for public affairs at Marquette University. She is responsible for the university's governmental initiatives at the federal, state, county and city levels; community relations; university special events; and special projects of strategic importance to Marquette.

Altenburg joined Marquette in 1996 as director of governmental relations and was appointed vice president for governmental and community relations in 1998 before being named to her current position in 2001. She previously served as a partner in Broydrick & Associates and an associate in Broydrick, Broydrick & Dacey, lobbying firms based in Washington, D.C., and also worked on public health issues.

She serves on the board of directors of the Avenues West Association, as chair of the Avenues West Economic Development Task Force, and as a member of the Avenues West Business Improvement District No. 10. She is also a member of the Menomonee Valley Partners board of directors, the Menomonee Valley Partners management committee, Westown Association, and Westown Business Improvement District No. 5.

She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and Spanish from Marquette and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

Jonathan Bie is a junior in the College of Business Administration studying finance and marketing. Since coming to Marquette, he has been involved in Midnight Run, MARDI GRAS, Hunger Clean Up, Orientation Staff, and the Business Mentor Program. He also works off campus as a sales associate at Golfsmith. Jon chose Marquette because his dad was born and raised in Green Bay which initially attracted him to Marquette and Milwaukee. He fell in love with the city and school as soon as he stepped on campus and he says he could not imagine himself anywhere else. After graduation he plans to pursue a career in marketing or finance in the Milwaukee area.

Estefania Elizondo is a senior in the Diederich College of Communication studying communication studies. Since coming to Marquette, she has been involved with Marquette University Student Government, College of Communication Student Council, Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee, Students for an Environmentally Active Campus, Lambda Pi Eta, and Marquette Journalists. Estefania chose Marquette due to its broad range of academic offerings, its focus on service and servant leadership, hands on programs and work/internship experience opportunities for undergraduate and last, but never least, the ability to acquire a degree from a nationally recognized institution thanks to the financial aid she received. Upon graduation, Estefania hopes to pursue a law degree at a top tier school and specialize in the defense of women's rights within the United States and throughout the world.

Sandra Hunter, PhD is a Professor in the Exercise Science Program, Department of Physical Therapy at Marquette University. Dr. Hunter is originally from Australia and completed her undergraduate degree in physical education and later her PhD at the University of Sydney Australia where her research focused on neuromuscular function with aging and the beneficial effects of strength training.

She is the director of the Neuromuscular Physiology of Movement laboratory (in the Exercise Science program in the Dept of Physical Therapy) at Marquette. Her research focuses on the causes of sex-based and age differences in neuromuscular (brain and muscle) function and fatigability, and the effects of stress and exercise training in older and clinical populations.

In 2014, Marquette University recognized Dr. Hunter with the top award for excellence in teaching for her teaching of exercise physiology to undergraduate and graduate students. In the same year she also received one of the top research awards at Marquette (Way Klinger Fellowship) which is awarded annually to a senior scientist. She serves as keynote speaker exercise and sport science conferences both nationally and internationally.

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Dr. Michael R. Lovell, is the 24th president of Marquette University. He began his role as president on July 1, 2014. As an educator, President Lovell seeks to develop course work and foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship for faculty, staff and students. A distinguished scholar, researcher, educator and leader, President Lovell holds three academic degrees in mechanical engineering, including a doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. He has published more than 100 articles in leading engineering journals, has written more than a dozen book chapters, and co-authored a book, *Tribology for Scientists and Engineers* in 2013.

President Lovell has laid out several strategic initiatives for his first year as chief executive of Marquette, including filling vacant high-profile university leadership positions with qualified, dynamic individuals; using the university's strategic plan, *Beyond Boundaries*, as a road map to bolster Marquette's national academic and research reputation and provide new transformational educational and research opportunities at all levels of Marquette's campus; working closely with the Marquette Jesuit community to honor and preserve the university's Catholic, Jesuit tradition and mission; enhancing Marquette's already-strong student experience to provide a campus experience that is second to none; establishing new relationships and collaborating with key business and thought leaders locally, regionally and nationally to foster innovation and allow Marquette to reach new levels of academic excellence; and providing a transformational educational experience with a foundation in inquiry and pursuit of lifelong learning, descended from the Jesuits' early curriculum grounded in the arts and sciences.

President Lovell, his wife Amy and their four children are active members of Holy Family Parish in Whitefish Bay, Wis. An ardent sports fan and participant, President Lovell enjoys attending men's and women's athletic events and is an avid runner and triathlete.

Laura McNabb is a senior in the College of Nursing. Since coming to Marquette, she has been involved in MARDI GRAS, Student Nurses' Association, the Honor's Program, and intramural sports. She also works on campus as a tour guide. Laura chose Marquette because it offers a direct-entry nursing program that encourages excellence both inside and outside of the classroom through clinical placements and the opportunity to study abroad for a semester. She believes that the community on campus fuses service with academics and professors encourage students to be men and women for others. After graduation she hopes to obtain a degree in public health and work internationally with underserved populations.

Andrew Pitts is a sophomore in the Olin College of Engineering studying mechanical engineering. Since coming to Marquette, he has been involved in MARDI GRAS, Best Buddies, Orientation Staff, and Midnight Run. He also works off campus at Harley Davidson. Andrew chose Marquette because he went to a Jesuit high school and knew he wanted to continue his Jesuit education somewhere. He is often asked why he didn't just go to SLU being from St. Louis, and his easy answer is "I wanted to get away from home. However, when I visited Marquette, it felt right and the city of Milwaukee seemed to offer so many new experiences that brought a unique perspective to life that St. Louis couldn't." He believes Marquette is always challenging him to think differently and see things from a new perspective. To be given the opportunity to have this challenge is something he is extremely grateful for. He knew coming to Marquette would in a way put him out of his comfort zone, but he didn't realize how much it would push him to be a better person. After graduation he plans to pursue a challenging engineering career that pushes him to be the best day in and day out.