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Welcome to the March 2025 Issue of *Make It Happen!*

This issue of *Make It Happen!* has been designed and edited by Haylyn Hiles '26, a junior English major of Marietta College.



Dear Friends,

At Marietta College, we believe that what students experience outside the classroom is just as valuable as what they learn inside it. Hands-on opportunities such as internships, research, conference presentations, and job shadowing help

students apply their knowledge in real-world settings, shaping their future careers and aspirations.

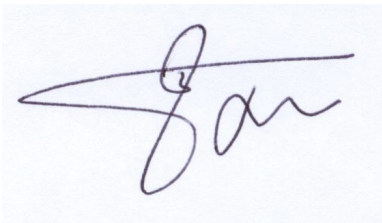
Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, we are proud to award up to \$26,000 in Summer Experiential Education Awards this semester, empowering students to pursue these transformative experiences. Their support makes it possible for our students to step outside the classroom and into meaningful opportunities that will shape their futures.

We open this issue with an insightful article by Paul Adams '69, who brilliantly explores the enduring value of a liberal arts education. His perspective reinforces the importance of critical thinking, adaptability, and lifelong learning—qualities that Marietta College instills in every student.

In this issue, readers will also learn how our students are preparing for life after graduation, leveraging their experiences to build meaningful careers.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jan', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Jacqueline Khorassani, Ph.D.

Senior Director, Center for Entrepreneurship & Career Development
Marietta College

More Than a Major: How Liberal Arts Open Doors to Diverse Careers



By: Paul Adams*

With my diploma in hand and an offer to teach English at a high school in my home state of Connecticut, I said a final but reluctant good-bye to Marietta College after four life-changing years. The post-college future I envisioned included making some early money as a secondary school teacher, then enrolling in a master's degree program, earning a Ph.D., and spending my career teaching language and literature at a college or university.

That pathway to my future was one I chose and was excited to pursue, but it was also one that was altogether predictable, if not inevitable. After all, the career paths of English majors like me, as well as of those graduating with degrees in one of the liberal arts disciplines (sometimes referred to as “the humanities”), such as history, foreign languages, philosophy, fine arts, and related fields, were perceived to be limited, often to teaching and a handful of related and financially less rewarding jobs or professions. There may have been some truth to that perception then – some fifty

years ago – but today it's refuted by the lives and examples of many thousands of successful people.

My own path didn't diverge quite so dramatically from my undergraduate major, but diverge it did over the course of my working years, first from high school teaching to the advertising sales-marketing management teams at several daily New England newspapers; then as an entrepreneur and Vice President of a publishing start-up that I and others developed into a successful business; then again as coordinator of corporate fund-raising for a major New England history museum; and finally, as the Managing Editor and lead correspondent for a global financial publication.

Over the past several decades, formerly "liberal arts" focused colleges have realigned their curricula to include pre-professional programs, and they have done so, in part, to assure students that a good job awaits them right after graduation and to assure parents of a relatively quick payback on their significant tuition investments. Marietta College is a good example, having created a thoughtful balance of liberal arts and pre-professional programs.

However, an unfortunate consequence of this trend is that it has reinforced the assumption that majoring in one of the liberal arts disciplines will lead to a lowerpaying or less prestigious job or career. Happily, the data about the short- and longterm job and income expectations of college graduates who major in one of the liberal arts disciplines tell a very different story. I'll cite a few examples which together strongly suggest that if you choose – or if you've already chosen – to major in one of the liberal arts areas at Marietta College, you'll have a universe of jobs and professions to choose from. **Medicine**

It's commonly thought that students who want to become physicians must major in one of the core sciences – particularly biology and chemistry – in order to be accepted into medical school. Future doctors who are also interested in history or psychology or sociology or English literature are too often encouraged to avoid all but minimum requirements in those areas and instead load-up on core science courses.

Those students and their parents should know, however, that the matriculation rate of science majors to medical schools is only about 40 percent, and of the 22,239 students who matriculated to medical schools in 2020-2021 (according to the

American Medical Association), about half – 12,845 – majored in one of the core sciences, but nearly 4,000 students majored in other areas (1,000 successful applicants majored in the humanities!) and another 3,000 or more fell into an ‘other’ category. So, fully one-third of students accepted into a U.S. medical school in 2020/2021 majored in something other than the core sciences.

Dr. Chrystal Fancher, formerly of the University of Southern California, said that USC’s medical school “doesn’t give more weight to one major or another as long as a student has completed the minimal prerequisites.” She added, “We look for mastery in an area that a student is passionate about, which could be art, history, literature, college athletics, music, dance, or in making an impact in their community.”

USC isn’t alone in that approach: For example, a list of jobs and careers in which English majors at Stanford University have distinguished themselves includes numerous health-related fields, such as radiology, pediatrics, and health-care management. English majors at Stanford have also established successful careers in business, art, astronomy, law, social media, clothing and fashion, and more. A study published in the journal *Medical Education*, “Pre-medical Majors in the Humanities and Social Sciences: Impact on Communication Skills and Specialty Choice,” documented one other essential skill humanities majors bring to medical careers; in clinical settings, they are much more effective at communicating effectively and empathetically with patients. ***Other professional disciplines***

How about business school? Data indicate that while about half of all students accepted into U.S. graduate business schools in 2021 were general or specialized business majors, twenty-four percent majored in the humanities, ten percent in the sciences, ten percent in engineering, and nine percent in some ‘other’ major.

How about law school? The three majors most frequently represented among successful applicants to law school are history, business, and English.

Data also show that the average lifetime earnings of college graduates not only is double that of students with only a high school diploma (and much more for students with advanced degrees), but the lifetime earnings of humanities majors are generally equivalent to the earnings of science majors, with the exception of engineering.

A revealing study, “How Liberal Arts and Sciences Majors Fare in Employment” from the Association of American Colleges and Universities, asserts that “whatever a student’s undergraduate major, employers overwhelmingly agree that all job seekers need to have developed a range of intellectual and practical skills and hands-on experience in order to be well prepared for successful careers.” Those are exactly the kinds of skills at which humanities majors typically excel. ***Prepare for life, not just for a job***

Dozens of studies based on employer responses to surveys also show conclusively that humanities majors bring a breadth and depth of understanding to their jobs, along with a range of so-called “transferrable skills,” such as communications, analytical, writing, research, and team-related skills. Why are those skills important? Among other reasons, because your first job after college won’t be your only job: In fact, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, you’re likely to change jobs six or seven times in your working life, and fully one-third of all college graduates move into entirely new careers from the one they planned on while they were in college.

That is certainly true of my career. After honing my writing, presenting, research, and mentoring skills as a high school English teacher, I took a leap into advertising sales and found those skills were valuable in business as well as in teaching. They were similarly valuable as I and others – in the run up to the launch of a small publishing company we developed into a very successful business – prospected for external funding, for advertisers, and for subscribers. They also came in handy as I crafted and presented fund-raising proposals to major New England companies and corporations in support of Old Sturbridge Village, the region’s premier non-profit history museum. And because skills are expanded and reinforced as they’re applied in new areas and situations, I found that mine served me extraordinarily well later in my career in my role as Managing Editor of publications that focused on U.S. and European financial markets.

In an article I commissioned for the publication I once co-owned and edited, a wise and renowned college professor offered this advice:

“[Colleges] need to reassure young people that the purposes of education are as broad and as deep as life itself, that the experience of learning, like the experience of living, is wide and various. At college, think of yourself as a student of something you enjoy, not as an apprentice for a job or career. Think less about what you’ll do

after graduation, as if life begins only then. Think about what you're doing now – what you're studying, what you're reading, what you've written. A student, after all, is someone who thinks, reads, and writes. Finally, study what interests you, not what the current job market designates as the surest, most lucrative employment after you graduate, because that job market may be quite different a decade or two from now."

My recommendation to you as a Marietta College student would be this: Instead of allowing someone else – even a parent – to choose what you'll study in college, choose to study what *you're* interested in, with the assurance that a rewarding and lucrative career awaits you in virtually any field or profession and regardless of your undergraduate major.

**Paul Adams, MC 1969, is a freelance, writer, editor, and researcher.*

Senior Spotlight: What's Next?

We asked graduating seniors to tell us about their plans for the future; this is what the first group of students have submitted:



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Kyra Eaton '25

Majoring in History

Minoring in Legal Studies

What's Next?

"I'm excited to pursue a Master of Library and Information Science in Archival Studies at Kent State University to develop skills in preserving historical records and cultural heritage for future generations."



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Kaitlyn Knowles '25

Majoring in Special Education/Elementary

What's Next?

“I plan to work as a second-grade special education inclusion teacher in Northern Virginia, and pursue a master's degree in special education or educational leadership.”



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Kaitlyn Gough '24

Majoring in Graphic Design

Minoring in Leadership Studies

What's Next?

“I graduated from MC last December and now work as the Communications Specialist/Graphic Designer for The Catholic Diocese of Columbus, a role I've been blessed with since my Freshman year, while also freelancing on the side.”



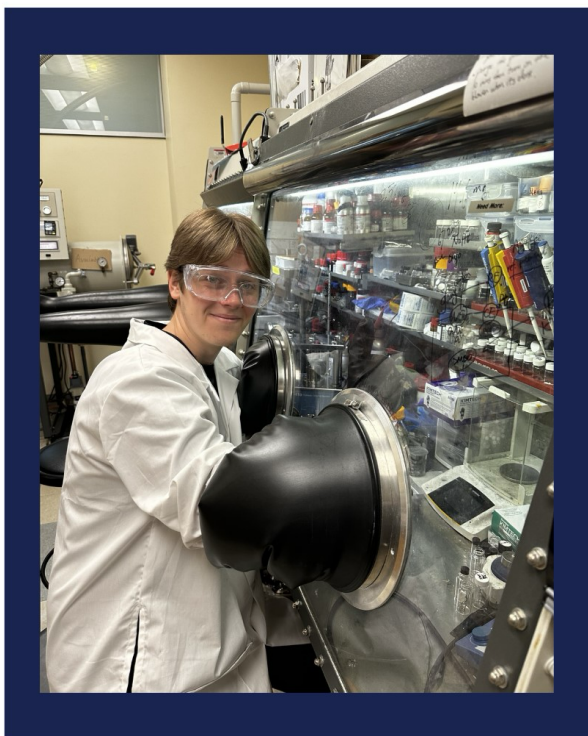
SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Kodi Brenner '25

Double majored in Sport Management and Marketing

What's Next?

"I will join the NCAA in Indianapolis as the Division 1 Women's Basketball Post-graduate intern."



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Colin Walters '25

Double Majored in Physics and Mathematics

What's Next?

"I'll be pursuing a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering at the Ohio State University."



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Ali Armann '25

Majoring in Psychology

Minoring in Gender & Sexuality Studies

What's Next?

“After graduation, I'll be starting the clinical mental health counseling master's program at Ohio University, with hopes of becoming a substance use counselor to help others.”



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Jacob Stern '25

Double majored in Entrepreneurship and Management

What's Next?

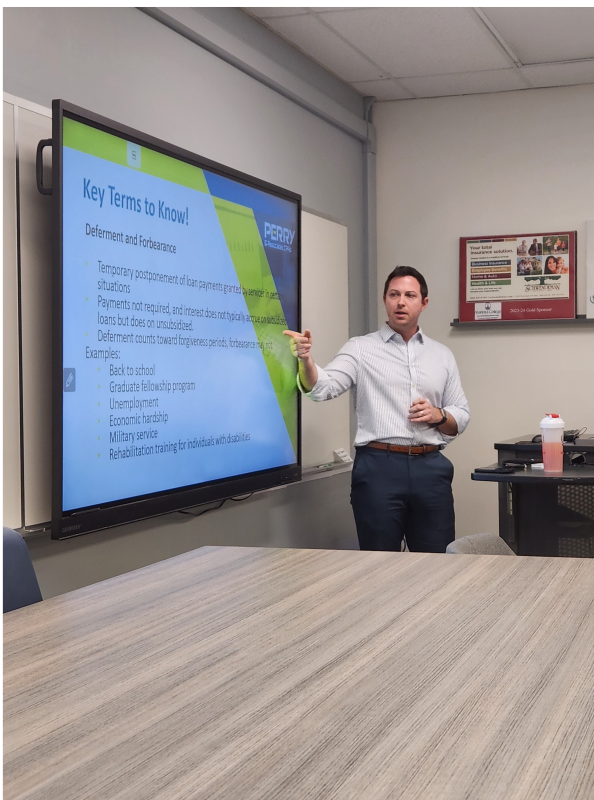
“I have been accepted to five law schools with merit scholarships. I believe my entrepreneurial background will enhance my success in law school.”

Events Recap:

During the first half of the Spring 2025 semester, the Center for Entrepreneurship & Career Development presented a three part mini-series to help students prepare for their lives after graduation. Below, each of the three parts are explained:

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Life After Graduation Mini-Series Part 1: Managing Debt



Brett Burns '15, the Advisory Senior Manager at Perry & Associates, gave insights into managing student budgets and expenses. This session was created to teach an understanding of the potential impact of student loans on post-college debt, and effective strategies for successful repayment. Our sponsor, QDOBA Mexican Eats, provided lunch.

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Life After Graduation Mini-Series Part 2: Budgeting



Brett Burns '15, the Advisory Senior Manager at Perry & Associates, taught how to achieve financial stability after graduation by learning how to craft a realistic budget. This session showed students how to allocate funds wisely for essentials and savings, and taught them to set achievable short-term and long-term financial goals. Our sponsor, QDOBA Mexican Eats, provided lunch.

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Life After Graduation Mini-Series Part 3: Employment Documents



Caprice Hudson, Director of Human Resources at Marietta, provided a detailed explanation of employment documents covering topics such as taxes, medical benefits, and retirement. Our sponsor, QDOBA Mexican Eats, provided lunch.

Future Events:

The Center for Entrepreneurship & Career Development is committed to providing students opportunities that benefit them in college, and after graduation. Below are future events that will be taking place during the second half of the Spring 2025 semester:

March 29th: PioSolve Hackathon Competition - Solve a Real-World Problem, Win Real Money • 8:00 am - 6:30 pm • Thomas Hall

April 1st: Job Talk - Discovering Purpose Through Unexpected Career Paths • 7:15 pm - 8:15 pm • Thomas 209

April 10th: Junior PioBiz - Watch and Vote as High School Students Present Problems & Solutions • 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm • The Gathering Place

April 24th: PioBiz Round 2: Proof of Concept Competition - Compete to Win Cash Prizes • 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm • Thomas 124

May 1st: End of the Year Award Ceremony and Networking - Food, Awards, and Networking • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm • Andrews Great Room

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Thank You Sponsors!

It is, in part, due to the generosity of our sponsors that we can offer our cocurricular and extracurricular events and workshops to the community either free of charge or at a discount. We do this because our goal is to build a network of young and seasoned entrepreneurs that together create economic, social, and environmental values through collaboration and cooperation. [Read More.](#)



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