

Campus remembers impact, spirit, spunk of Caitlin Yager

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Hundreds of Marietta College students and faculty came together Jan. 22 in a memorial gathering to celebrate the life of sophomore Caitlin Yager, who died in a car accident on Dec. 26, 2013.

Yager, of Youngstown, Ohio, would have been 20 years old on Jan. 28. A double major in history and religious studies, she was a heavily involved student on campus. Caitlin ran track and cross country, was a tour guide, peer mentor, student senate representative, and Sigma Kappa recruiting chair, and was a part of both the honors program and the McDonough Leadership program.

In just three semesters, she also resurrected College Students for Common Sense, a political club on campus that had become stagnant. In addition, she pioneered the Marietta Interfaith Club, a reflection of her desire for students of all faiths to have a safe place for community and dialogue. In the spring, she had plans to study abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Caitlin's memorial service,

held in Fenton Court, was an opportunity for those who had been touched by her to reflect on her short, but fully-lived life. Dr. Joseph Bruno, who opened the ceremony, described Caitlin's death as "the saddest experience I've had since coming to the College," but said that it also brought out Marietta College's deep sense of connectedness and care for each other.

Senior and student body President Jessica Johnson followed Bruno with a charge for those present. "Please, hold onto your memories of [Caitlin], and don't ever let them die," she said. "That's what's always going to keep her spirit here at Marietta."

Several of Caitlin's close friends had the opportunity to speak at the service, including juniors Ryan Turnewitsch, Natalie Mayan, and Alina Kielbasa, and sophomores Gene Neill and Annalee Haviland. Dr. Janet Bland and Dr. Robert Pastoor also spoke.

Caitlin was remembered by her friends as a "servant leader," "always positive," and "the best listener." The speakers reflected fondly on her bright personality.

"She refused negativity," Kielbasa, Caitlin's big sister in Sigma Kappa, said. "I think she may have wanted you to know this: You have value. You have worth. In honor of her, I ask that you share that message with others."

Bland, Caitlin's adviser, spoke passionately of Caitlin's thirst for pursuing the future. "She was the purest sort of optimist," Bland said. "Let us take up a bit of Caitlin into our hearts and be inspired."

Even after her death, Caitlin could inspire laughter among everyone as those closest to her reflected on her "sassy" personality. Without failure, every speaker mentioned her love for baking, a hobby she was fondly remembered by and shared eagerly with everyone who knew her.

All who spoke of Caitlin shared a similar message: she had a firecracker personality that could always light up a room, yet she was sensitive, caring, and loyal to her friends in all circumstances. She was proactive. She wanted to change the world, and most importantly, she inspired others

to do the same.

At the end of the service, Bland had a special message for the class of 2016.

"At graduation, you will think of Caitlin," she said. "Know that she is right there with you, heading off into the world."

In six weeks, Caitlin will be receiving her own memorial plaque on one of the benches outside of the Dyson Baudo Recreation Center, Pastoor said.

Caitlin will be deeply missed by her friends, sorority sisters, and most importantly, her family at Marietta College.



Photo courtesy of College Relations
Dr. Bland reflects on Caitlin's comedic and optimistic process of choosing a major.



Photo courtesy of College Relations
While placing roses in a vase onstage, the sisters of the Sigma Kappa sorority honor Caitlin through song.

Energy-efficient refrigerators lead campus initiative for sustainability

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Physical Plant and the college's Sustainability Committee are leading a new initiative to conserve energy and increase consciousness of our campus's consumption – and it begins in our refrigerators.

As a part of the initiative, Physical Plant is encouraging departments in buildings across campus to replace multiple minifridges with a single energy star refrigerator, which uses the same amount of energy as merely one of its many mini counterparts but can hold the capacity of up to seven miniature refrigerators.

"We recognize the scientific consensus that global warming is real and it is important that the college community show leadership in reducing our greenhouse gases and reduce our energy costs," Director of Physical Plant Fred Smith said.

"Sustainability initiatives can reduce our

operating costs, and they are also a factor in recruiting and retaining students."

Dr. John Tynan, associate professor of mathematics, volunteered with his department to serve as the prototype for the new initiative last fall. The department of math, computing, and information systems replaced the four minifridges that had previously been in the department with one energy star refrigerator.

"Fred was in the office one day and noticed how many small models we had," Tynan said. "He asked and the department readily accepted his offer. It is certainly helpful to have a full-size available."

According to Smith, the switch was a success because the new model uses just one-fourth the amount of energy that the department was using previously with their other refrigerators. Tynan pointed out that this means the department is saving up to 75 percent more energy.

"Anything we can do to help is useful – par-

ticularly when it makes as much sense as this," Tynan said.

Smith intends to publicize the success of the Math, Computing, and Information Systems department and make the same offer to other academic and administrative offices.

Physical Plant will also collaborate with Dean of Students Bruce Peterson to encourage students to purchase energy star minifridges and to limit the number of fridges to one per room. In apartments with college-provided refrigerators, Smith suggests that students consider going "minifridge free."

Peterson feels the initiative is important because it helps keep housing costs low by reducing energy consumption, though he recognizes that not all students will have the financial means to purchase new appliances.

"With that thought in mind, the Dean of Students office will focus on new students and explain the importance of purchasing energy ef-

ficient appliances during summer orientation," Peterson said of the cost of new appliances.

Current students who are conscious of energy consumption and environmental impact expressed interest in the new initiative.

Senior Brett Notarius, community adviser of the Sustainable Living House, fully supports the campus's transition to energy-efficient appliances.

"The fridges are a good idea because they're one small action," Notarius said. "For others to have just enough to get by, we need to cut our over-indulging energy consumption."

Tynan expressed similar enthusiasm for the broader implications of the movement.

"Being a parent, I particularly want to be able to help conserve our planet for the future generations," Tynan said.

Purchasing energy star-compliant appliances is a part of the college's strategic plan and falls under the college's commitment to sustainability.