

Bringing the world to Waukesha

Largest-ever class of international students coming to Carroll University

By Lauren Anderson
Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA — After a 12-hour flight from Paris to Milwaukee, Romane Raugo felt a mixture of fatigue and excitement upon landing at General Mitchell International Airport Wednesday afternoon — her first time in America.

"I feel a little bit tired, a little bit shy and also really excited to see the rest," she said.

She is among Carroll University's largest-ever group of international students to join the campus this fall. On Wednesday, representatives from the university — and mascot Pio Pete — were ready at the airport to greet them as they landed.

Carroll is welcoming 58 international students who hail from from 25 different countries, including South Korea, Austria, France, Mexico, Spain, Sri Lanka, Denmark and the Democratic Republic of Congo. That brings the total number of international students at Carroll to 97.

Some will spend all of their undergraduate or graduate school years in Waukesha. Some are participating in the university's intensive English language program and some are studying for just a semester abroad.

"Having these students on campus means that we're enriching all of the diverse perspectives in our classrooms and in our community," said Jeannie Jaworski, Carroll's director of international education. "Our students are bringing different political beliefs, religious beliefs, different upbringings and that infuses the classroom discussions. So it's bringing the world to Waukesha."

Diverse perspectives

Jaworski said the university has increased its outreach to international partners in recent years, working with 13 exchange partnerships and international

recruitment partners who help market Carroll to students around the globe.

Meanwhile, all students are required to study culture and immerse themselves in a cross-cultural setting as part of Carroll's general education program.

Those experiences help foster the skills students will need as they enter the workforce, Jaworski said.

"We really feel we're doing our students a service by providing these opportunities," she said. "They're going to need to be adaptable, to understand diverse perspectives."

Kimani Njonya came from Nairobi, Kenya three years ago to study at Carroll and now serves an international orientation mentor, helping the new students adjust to their new setting. He's able to empathize with the students, having recently walked in their same shoes.

"The biggest thing for me was some of the lingo that's used here in America — some phrases I had no idea what they were. So that was a problem, communication, but over time I got used to it," Njonya said. "So when they ask me questions, I can tell what they're going through and I can help them through it and how I went through it."

Jaworski said the university helps students with the transition by organizing their pickup at the airport, offering a student orientation, immigration support and language and academic support throughout the year. It also helps arrange host families for the students over breaks.

Each year, friendships form among Carroll's American and international students. And sometimes it even inspires reciprocal visits, with American students choosing to study abroad or take a trip to their international friend's home country.

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Charles Auer/Freeman Staff

Pio Pete greets Korean student Daeun Lee at General Mitchell International Airport on Wednesday.



Jeannie Jaworski greets Korean students Seonjoo Bok, Gayoung Kim and Daeun Lee at General Mitchell International Airport on Wednesday.



New Carroll University international students ride down to baggage claim on Wednesday.

STATE NEWS

MILWAUKEE

Lawmaker says police cuff him as he tries to defuse tension

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A state lawmaker says police officers threw him to the ground and put him in handcuffs as he tried to de-escalate tensions after 10 people were arrested at the scene of a recent fatal police shooting on Milwaukee's north side.

Rep. Jonathan Brostoff says he was talking with members of the faith community in the Sherman Park neighborhood about 10 p.m. Tuesday when he was cuffed and thrown into a police wagon. He was later released.

Police earlier arrested 10 people for disorderly conduct and resisting officers.

Pfister chef reportedly killed while trying to help friend

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Friends of a Milwaukee chef fatally stabbed outside a bar in Milwaukee say he was trying to help an acquaintance who was being attacked by her boyfriend.

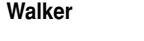
Shawn Ostrom's friends gathered outside Thurman's 15 bar on the city's east side Tuesday night to mourn his death. The 32-year-old Ostrom was a chef at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee.

MADISON

Walker approval rating rebounds in latest poll

MADISON (AP) — Gov. Scott Walker's approval rating has rebounded to its highest point in months.

A Marquette University Law School poll released Wednesday shows Walker's approval at 43 percent. It was 38 percent in a poll three weeks ago, the same as it was in July. It was last at 43 percent in March.



Walker

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Cedarburg man accused of drugging, assaulting women files defamation suit

By Alison Henderson
Conley News Service

CEDARBURG — A local man previously accused of drugging and sexually assaulting several women has filed a defamation suit in Milwaukee County in an effort to clear his name.

Jacob Banas, co-owner of the August Weber Haus in downtown Cedarburg, filed the suit Aug. 22 against Jacqueline Pape, Dylani Herath, Kathryn Wilson and a woman who filed a report against him with the Cedarburg Police Department in 2014. Conley News Service does not name alleged victims of sexual assault. The suit details statements or claims allegedly made by each of the defendants either verbally, online or through information provided to police.

The defendants have 45 days to respond to the summons. Herath could not be reached for comment and Wilson said she declined to comment at this time.

The suit maintains that: "As a result of the false statements made by these defendants, August Weber Haus Restaurant drastically reduced its hours of operation, effectively leaving Banas without a job. Banas experienced severe emotional distress and family embarrassment and his marriage ended in divorce," according to the complaint.

Reports filed with police

The alleged false statements referenced in the complaint are the result of several reports filed with the Cedarburg Police Department between 2008 and 2014 claiming that Banas had drugged and, in some cases, sexually assaulted women. Some of the women's reports state that they experienced nausea and vomiting, disorientation or memory loss after accepting drinks from Banas.

The reports were used by police in an affidavit to obtain search warrants for his home and the restaurant. The warrants were granted and executed in July 2014, at which point news outlets began reporting on the details of the claims.

As of this week, no charges related to these reports or the searches have ever been filed against Banas, according to records from the Wisconsin Court System.

Cedarburg Police Chief Tom Frank stressed that he was not able to comment on the case, but said that it was "open, but inactive."

"I always knew that I never did anything wrong, but you still have people saying that you did. I mean, it's just



Banas

something I would never have done or would never do," Banas said.

He said he has experienced constant harassment and harm, including a divorce in 2015, which he said "prior to that, wouldn't have gone that way." He said he wanted to use the suit to "get the truth out."

"This is the recourse that I have to get the truth out there," he said. "I guess it's that simple, for me at least."

Of the four defendants listed in the case, one woman filed a report against Banas with the Cedarburg Police Department, according to court documents. The defamation complaint claims that she falsely reported information to police, including that she was drugged by Banas at the restaurant and how much she had to drink the night of the alleged incident.

"The allegations against me in the complaint are untrue and I am looking forward to being exonerated through the legal process. My attorney will be responding to the complaint accordingly," the woman said in an email.

'We'll go where the evidence leads us,' says attorney

Banas' attorney, Brent Nistler, said those who filed police reports against Banas in 2008 were not included as defendants because their claims were reported outside the three-year window allotted by the statute of limitations.

Regarding others who may have made statements about Banas, Nistler noted it is still early in the case. They have six months to amend the complaint and Nistler said just because someone's name isn't listed on the complaint doesn't mean they won't be sued.

"We'll go where the evidence leads us," Nistler said.

According to the complaint, a Yelp review from Herath about the August Weber Haus mentioned the owner's alleged use of rape drugs and his involvement in "other crimes including child pornography," though no allegations of child pornography were ever made or covered by any news outlet, according to the complaint.

Alleged comments on Facebook, outside restaurant

In addition, the complaint claims a Facebook comment, in which Wilson

allegedly said her "daughter was one of the victims," is false because her "daughter was not a victim of drugging or sexual assault by Banas, and she did not report any victimization to the police included in the news reports." Wilson's comment, as quoted in the defamation complaint, did not mention drugging or sexual assault.

The complaint also cites comments allegedly made by Pape to patrons outside the August Weber Haus patio. According to the complaint, Pape allegedly shouted comments that accused the owner of being a rapist who drugs women. Banas, who said he was not there when the incident reportedly occurred, said the comments caused people to get up and leave.

According to Pape, the statement she made was different than the one written in the defamation complaint.

"All I said was 'Watch what you're drinking here.' I didn't repeat anything, I didn't say anything about rape, I did not shout. I didn't mention his name — I didn't know his name," she said, adding that she did not see anyone get up and leave.

She noted that the statement came from information she saw in news coverage, as it had already been in the news at that point.

As of Tuesday afternoon, which was just eight days after the suit was filed, Pape said she did not plan to countersue.

Nistler said what Banas needs and wants is a jury to say that one or more of the defendants in the suit defamed him, "and by saying that," he said, "they're saying that the allegations aren't true."

Next steps

Once the defendants respond to the summons, Nistler said, he anticipates there will be a scheduling conference. The plaintiff will then be given time to put together a damage claim.

"The case isn't primarily about money because, frankly, it is going to cost Jacob a lot of money to pursue this. It's really about clearing his name," Nistler said.

Banas has also filed at least one police report for disorderly conduct and defamation. A report filed on Aug. 21 detailed a July 3 incident and subsequent activity on social media about it. Following an investigation into the complaint, Cedarburg Police Sgt. John Stroik issued the woman in question with a municipal citation for disorderly conduct, according to the citation.

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United Way announces \$60.125M fundraising goal

MILWAUKEE — The United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County announced its goal to raise \$60.125 million to further help mobilize local resources.

The announcement came at the organization's Community Campaign kickoff event Wednesday at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

The donated funds will also assist in providing health and human services to thousands of families in southeast Wisconsin.

"United Way is about being part of something greater," said Mary Lou Young, president and CEO of United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County. "United Way addresses the complexity of people's lives and communities by focusing on the root causes of issues and responding to immediate basic needs."

In 2014, the campaign — Milwaukee and Waukesha combined — raised more than \$58 million and easily surpassed its \$53.8 million goal. Last year's goal was \$60 million and the group raised \$60.07 million.

United Way also announced its first-ever goal of 16,750 volunteer hours to be completed through Season of Caring, which runs from August until December. The goal aims to improve the resources that are mobilized through donations with sweat equity. The hours spent by volunteers help United Way partner agencies fulfill their missions and offer services they typically wouldn't have time or the talent to provide.

"United Way values the gift of volunteer time and the impact it can make in the life of a child, for someone who is struggling to meet their basic needs, and the community as a whole," said Dr. Darienne Driver, Milwaukee Public Schools superintendent and volunteer engagement committee chair.

The United Way has over 200 programs and 110 partner agencies with a focus on education, income and health. The organization's Community Campaign runs through Dec. 14.

— Freeman Staff

Master Z's looking to expand existing business to neighboring lot

Zoning Appeals board to take up request at next meeting

WAUKESHA — Several big-ticket items will go before the Board of Zoning Appeals at its next meeting Sept. 12.

Among them, Master Z's at 1005 Spring City Drive is requesting rezoning in order to add a 24,175-square-foot expansion to the existing business on the neighboring vacant lot.

In a letter to the Board of Zoning Appeals, Master Z's President Jim Lindenberg, who purchased the company last September, said he had initial plans to expand upon buying the business; that time, he said, is now.

With the current zoning structure, however, Lindenberg needs the city's approval to allow Master Z's to expand the current retail, office, warehouse and parking circulation footprint within the existing TIF district.

"My immediate future growth is dependent upon allowing needed expansion to the retail operation to take place," Lindenberg wrote. "The benefit to the City of Waukesha and the region is that a quality destination retailer remains vibrant in the community."

The initial addition plans also include space for numerous parking stalls on the site.

The board will also discuss CFT NV Developments LLC's appeal of plans to add a Panda Express and a building for additional restaurant and retail space to the site of the former Weissgerber's Gasthaus at 270 N. Grandview Blvd.

The Plan Commission had denied preliminary plans for the retail development at its July 13 meeting due to concerns with traffic control in the area. That came after numerous issues with the submittal at the April 27 meeting, which put preliminary plans and architectural review on hold.

On Aug. 2, the developer formally submitted an appeal to the commission's decision.

— Freeman Staff