

NUMBERS TELL A STORY OF INFINITE GOOD

Cory Howard '99 plans for future Marist students

By Rebecca Larson



Cory Howard '99

One (no pun intended) would expect to talk about numbers when visiting with Cory Howard '99. After all, numbers are his life, whether it's his profession or his passion.

Cory is a Certified Financial Planner, CFP® with Merrill Lynch in Bend who not only uses numbers in his job but has also racked up a different set of numbers: the miles biked, hiked, and skied along the trails and peaks of Central Oregon and beyond (including Japan). Some of the mountain ranges are so remote they can only be reached by helicopter.

"It's called heli-touring. We get dropped off on a secluded summit, ski down, and then put 'skins' on our skis, climb back up several thousand vertical feet, ski down again, climb again, repeat until the helicopter picks

us back up at the end of an exhausting day," said Cory. "We" refers to his wife, Caroline, an emergency room physician in Bend who he met when Caroline was rock climbing at Smith Rock.

Avalanches are a very real threat in heli-touring, but Cory is prepared for the "what ifs." Both he and Caroline are avalanche certified so they know how to mitigate the risks. If an avalanche occurs, they are wearing boots with GPS positioning, avalanche beacons and special avalanche backpacks. This backpack is like a parachute — pull the ripcord and a big balloon inflates which floats the skier on top of the snow. "You'd still likely break something, but it increases your chances of survival by 50%," said Cory.

Planning for the "what if" is part of Cory's fundamental operating mode. While it is not pleasant to think about one's demise or decline due to aging or illness, it's part of his life and work and Cory encourages people to have a plan in place. "It can happen sooner than we would prefer," he said, citing clients in their 40s and 50s who have met with an accidental death or succumbed to a disease.

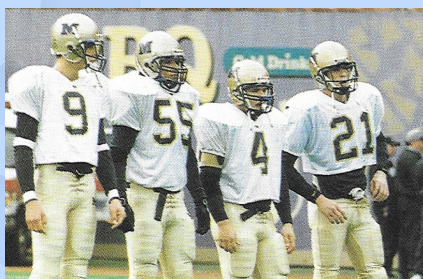
And, being a Financial Planner, it's also not surprising that Cory would have planned for Marist, making provisions in his trust for an endowed scholarship. "Given my career, it's very

important to me to have a plan in place which addresses my family's estate planning goals. For my wife Caroline and me, our estate plan is heavily tilted towards philanthropic efforts which reflect our core values. We both share a strong desire to support charitable organizations that contributed to our personal growth; therefore, we have committed to leaving a meaningful gift to the Marist Foundation."

"Creating opportunities for economically disadvantaged teenagers to attend Marist is something that very much resonates with me as I firmly believe bringing together people from different socioeconomic backgrounds enriches the educational experience for all students."

When Cory was a Marist student, his dream was to play with the National Hockey League and he actually did get to play NCAA hockey in Minnesota. But after suffering a substantial injury, he realized that he was not destined for the NHL. He had always gravitated towards finance, mathematics and economics, so he changed course and finished up his undergraduate degree at the University of Oregon's Lundquist College of Business in 2003. He also completed his graduate studies in Financial Planning at Boston University.

Marist had prepared him well. "The curriculum at Marist was high volume and fast-paced," recalled Cory.



Co-captains for the varsity football team, Joe Copley '99, Cort Brazelton '99, Cory Howard '99 and J.P. Mischkot '99 lead their team at state in the Fall of 1998.

"This preparatory process instilled the discipline and time management skills I needed to successfully navigate college academics."

Cory stays connected with his Marist friends. "The lifetime friendships built during our four years together as

teammates continue to create a host of new memories as we all age," he said.

He attended the Class of 1999's reunion at Marist a few summers ago and recounts that one of his most vivid memories from high school is still that of the state semifinal game in Portland his senior year with his "football family." Though the Spartans didn't win that back-and-forth battle, they "went out in style with an innovative tackle spread trick play."

Cory will be back on campus again next spring to watch his niece, Tessa Woodrum '22 cross the stage with her friends and classmates. Cory's foresight and generosity in joining Marist's Legacy Society will mean



Tessa Woodrum '22 and her uncle Cory Howard '99 tour colleges this summer.

that scholarships will be granted in his name to countless future Marist students who will also get to walk across that graduation stage.

Though uncounted as yet, that's going to be a wonderful number and do an infinite amount of good. ☘

