

Distinguished Alumni & Distinguished Alumni of Tomorrow 2016 Awards













Friday, September 16, 2016 | *The Marygrove College Theatre*

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND 2016 Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

8:30 a.m.

Registration & Continental Breakfast *Madame Cadillac Building*

9:45 a.m.

Procession to Sacred Heart Chapel

10:00 a.m.

Mass

Sacred Heart Chapel, Liberal Arts Building

11:20 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. Class Pictures Front of Liberal Arts Building

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Lunch

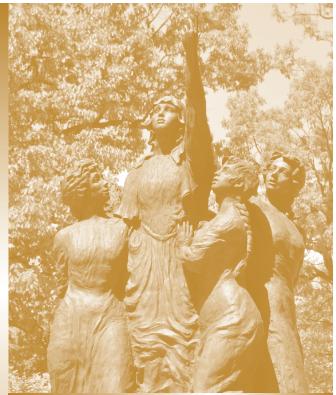
Alumnae Hall, Madame Cadillac Building

2:15 - 3:15 p.m. Campus Showcase

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

11:00 a.m. - Noon Golden Jubilee Celebration Mass honoring the Class of 1966 Sacred Heart Chapel, Liberal Arts Building

Noon – 2:00 p.m.
Brunch & Induction of the Class of 1966
into the Fifty Year Club and recognition
of those who graduated prior to 1966
Main Dining Room, Madame Cadillac Building



2016-2017 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Frances L. Brown Simmons '85

Yesenia Venegas '07

The Marygrove College Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Alumni of Tomorrow Awards are honors bestowed by Marygrove College and the Marygrove College Alumni Association. These awards have been established to recognize and honor alumni and current students who have distinguished themselves and their alma mater.

The Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Alumni of Tomorrow Awards celebrate the ideals of competence (the ability to understand and participate effectively in the promise of our evolving world), compassion (the capacity to care about and respect the worth and dignity of people), and commitment (the will to act responsibly based upon one's beliefs and to contribute to the building of a more just and humane world)—qualities that Marygrove has always tried to instill in its students.

The **Distinguished Alumni Awards** honor graduates who have made significant contributions and demonstrated leadership in any of the following areas:

- Professional, educational or artistic endeavors
- The community through government service and/or civic organizations (such as Lions Club, city planning commissions, government committees, etc.)
- Political action, social justice or volunteer activities in schools, hospitals, etc.
- Marygrove College

The **Distinguished Alumni of Tomorrow Award** honors an exceptional undergraduate junior or senior (2016-2017 academic year) who has made significant contributions to the Marygrove College community in all of the following areas:

- Academic Accomplishment
- Leadership
- Service to the College and/or community



Alice Baker, 1HM '59

MARYGROVE COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Had you lingered in the halls of Detroit's St. Ambrose Academy long after the final bell had emptied the hallways and classrooms of its students, it is likely that you would still find Sister Alice Baker there, mop and bucket in hand. "I can remember the lean years at St. Ambrose when Sister Alice mopped floors to keep the school open," explains her younger sister Rosemary Peters. "She had a master's degree from Marygrove College, but she willingly did janitorial work. Her whole life revolved around that school and those kids."

This scene may resonate with the friends, colleagues, and the families of the children Sister Alice has devoted her life to—but it surely does not surprise them. Sister Alice is a civic leader, peacemaker, equal rights activist, educator, and woman religious, but she is also a living portrait of humility, a woman who, for over fifty-five years, has refused to subscribe to the notion that there exists in the world a task that is beneath her.

Sister Alice, a third generation IHM, grew up only a stone's throw away from Belle Isle near St. Ambrose. Here, she taught reading and social studies to fourth and fifth graders for twenty-five years. Eventually, a lack of funding forced the school to shut its doors.

Following service at St. Ambrose and seven more years at St. Jude, Detroit, Sister Alice and two of her IHM Sisters, along with four Adrian Dominican Sisters, were offered a site at what was once the intensive care unit of Samaritan Hospital. In 2005, they officially opened the doors of Epiphany Education Center, a tutoring service for elementary students, and began doing what they did best, explains friend and fellow IHM, Sister Roberta Richmond: "Giving students what they need to succeed, and then push them to do more."

At the outset, the Sisters had no money, books, supplies, or students. But they did have a space and they were, by the grace of God, led to a warehouse of free furniture. To promote their services, the Sisters took to the streets of the city's east side. And the students came. More than ten years later, this tutoring program continues to empower students and families, many of whom drive forty miles, roundtrip, so that they can take advantage of the center's free services.

In addition to working with students, Sister Alice has held a lifelong tenure as peace advocate. She has organized a variety of peace conferences, is a member of the Michigan Peace Team, has demonstrated in the Holy Land twice, has joined protestors at the annual vigil at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia, seven times, and has protested the training of Latin American soldiers in military tactics and torture.

Sister Alice has gone many times to Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance's annual rally in Tennessee to march and demonstrate against the production of nuclear weapons at the Y-12 National Security Complex. In 2008 she discerned a call to civil disobedience, thereby symbolically offering "bread not bombs" and refused to leave the road when ordered. For this she was jailed and held overnight in an overcrowded central unit with fifty-six women inmates. She was to repeat this action the following year and spent five nights and six days in the Anderson County jail.

Currently Sister Alice travels frequently to the Michigan Air National Guard center in Battle Creek to join others who are protesting a possible drone command center. She is a natural leader, always joyful, gentle, generous, and respected as a faith-filled woman of the IHM community.





Peggy (Margaret) Devaney, 1HM '64 MARYGROVE COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

It has been more than fifty years since they traversed the lawns and corridors of Marygrove College together as classmates. But when Victoria Koivu-Rybicki says that the passing of time has neither wilted Sister Peggy Devaney's determination, nor has it impeded her ability to effectively "break down barriers on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised," she means it. Indeed, undermining barriers—the physical, psychological, and socioeconomic kind—has been Sister Peggy's life's work. And those that know her best remain certain that it will be so for a long time to come.

After earning bachelor's degrees in history and theology education in 1964 and a master's in education from Wayne State University, Sister Peggy continued her studies, earning a Master of Divinity at the Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary. This education helped lay the foundation for the work she would take up as an educator. Despite her talent for teaching, as evidenced by her numerous accolades— including the Teacher of the Year Award from her school district in Hollywood, Florida—Sister Peggy would ultimately heed a new calling.

This calling revealed itself in her role as the first female chaplain of the Oakland County Jail, a position she has held for more than thirty years. Under Sister Peggy's guidance, the Oakland County Jail Outreach Ministry Program has become a model program, recognized just as much for its broad array of services as it is for meeting goals, standards, and laws pertaining to religious services in the county's corrections department.

Corrections administrator Ann Russel, who has known and worked alongside Sister Peggy for more than two decades now, has much to say about her. In particular, she is quick to note her "tremendous passion, unending dedication, and her ability to get things accomplished" in a complicated, rank-structured, and often bureaucratic system. Yet these are things that have never deterred Sister Peggy for a moment.

Indeed, Sister Peggy understands that hope and healing are needed both within "the system" and in the community as a whole. And because of this, her ministry often defies the brick, mortar, and metal of the jail walls and spills over into the community on the outside.

Beyond the walls, Sister Peggy makes herself available to released offenders, assisting them in locating housing, helping them find work, offering an encouraging word, or donating food and gifts to the families of the incarcerated. Regardless of the service she provides, there will be no doubt that she will, as Ann Russel eloquently suggests, "give life and dignity to those who feel that they do not deserve it."

Even as she passes retirement age, Sister Peggy remains as active and determined as ever. The Jail and Outreach Ministry Program is comprehensive—and as such, it requires myriad services including hiring, training, mentoring, and scheduling, all of which Sister Peggy oversees. To further ensure that the program succeeds, Sister Peggy not only coordinates forty weekly religious services for all faith groups and works with four hundred volunteers, she also collaborates with local churches who collect and deliver food and gifts to those in need. In addition to this, she has developed and put together a group of over two hundred volunteers to assist in bible distribution, pastoral counseling, crisis faith intervention, and community outreach.

Over the years, Sister Peggy has used her gifts to chair the National Catholic Correctional Chaplains Committee on Certification and updated and renewed the certification criteria for Catholic correctional chaplains in the United States, a document that was approved by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops in 2010.





Barbara Jean Nienstedt Buttell'65

MARYGROVE COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

From the moment she stepped onto the campus of Marygrove College, Barbara Jean Nienstedt Buttell —or "BJ" as she is affectionately called— "bloomed wherever she was planted," says friend and former classmate Mary Rita Danaher Allen. "From the outset, BJ immersed herself in the academic, spiritual, and social commitment of the college—and this is something she continues to do no matter where she is, no matter what she does."

BJ has Marygrove in the blood: Her mother, Betty Kennedy, graduated from Marygrove in 1942; so did her aunts, Barbara and Jean, who graduated in 1947 and 1949, respectively. Despite this family tradition, BJ admits that she was prepared to be the first to defy it. "Being an independent-minded teenager, there was no way I was going to follow in their footsteps," she says. Yet this strong will softened and, like these three women before her, BJ joined the Marygrove College community and immediately thrived.

After earning her bachelor's degree in preschool psychology from Marygrove in 1965, she embarked upon a thirty-five-year journey in education and civic service while also earning a master's in reading and language arts at Florida State University. Indeed, her successful career in education must be attributed to talent, hard work, and tenacity, but BJ is the first to admit that her penchant for leadership has much to do with the IHM tradition. "The infusion of competence, compassion, and commitment became my reality as I moved through my classes—and I carried the leadership skills I honed at Marygrove over into my professional life."

Her career in education began locally in the Lakeview and Southfield school systems and continued abroad when she took a job with the Department of Defense, a position that granted her the opportunity to teach children at American military bases in the Philippines, Germany and Japan.

After returning to the States, BJ took a position at St. Francis de Sales, then at Helen Marie Smith Elementary School in the Clark County District. At Helen Marie Smith, BJ created a backpack program, a school-wide post office, and many other student-success programs that bolstered her colleagues' classroom management skills and pushed them to broaden their curriculum to engage students in new and exciting ways.

Outside of education, she continued to exercise leadership as president of a large Air Force Officers' Wives' Club. In this role, she organized monthly meetings, executed a yearly budget of \$21 thousand, and streamlined the organization's constitution and by-laws to comply with federal directives.

Following her husband Mike's retirement from the Air Force in 1989, the family, including her daughters Bridget and Sarah, relocated to Las Vegas. Once settled, BJ became involved with the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary, serving in every position on both the local and state boards, eventually becoming state president in 2011. During this time, she completed twenty-four hours at the University of Nevada Las Vegas and became the Myrtle Tate Elementary School librarian, a position she would hold for four years, not including the two years she spent working inside the classrooms there.

In her more than three decades of service, BJ has been active on countless school committees, was a Fellow of the Southern Nevada Writing Project (SNWP), a building representative for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and has acted as a grade-level chair. She was selected as a University Fellow for SNWP, has coordinated the organization's Children's Writing Project for at-risk students, and was nominated for the Christa McAuliffe Award for her work with special-needs students.





Kathleen Alessandro '72

Hollywood has done a fine job of presenting audiences with the archetypical leader: someone who rides in on a white horse, takes charge, and does it all on his or her own. But those who have been in the trenches are well aware that authentic leadership, the kind that has a profound and lasting impact, is not only strong and visionary, but also communal.

Speak to Elaine Koons, Deputy Director of Great Start Collaborative-Wayne (GSCW), and she will tell you that Kathleen Alessandro is a "thoughtful and transformational leader," someone who "explodes with innovative ideas," and uses them to get things done. Just as important to Koons, however, is her colleague's ability to "bring each of us along with her, teaching, supporting, and learning from us so that we all contribute to the synergy of this important work."

For the last three years, Kathleen, in collaboration with her colleagues at GSCW, has made it her mission to establish and maintain a comprehensive early childhood system that reduces infant mortality, improves childhood literacy, and enhances the lives of families by assisting them with addiction services, health and wellness plans, and food and shelter programs.

Indeed, Kathleen has used her talent, vision, and her combined degrees in political science and sociology in the non-profit sector for over four decades. But those who know Kathleen from her Marygrove days in the early '70s, will tell you that Kathleen has been tending to the vulnerable and underserved long before her professional career began. While still an undergraduate, Kathleen took an internship at Mother Waddles Perpetual Mission and was often seen in the passenger seat, Sister Christina Schwartz holding steady at the wheel, delivering meals with the Focus:HOPE Food Distribution Program for pregnant women.

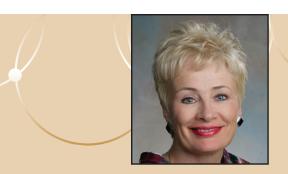
Kathleen's resume boasts many professional achievements, but perhaps one of the most notable was providing leadership and direction in the early '80s when the downriver area of Detroit experienced crippling job losses. In one year, the top fifteen employers laid off or eliminated sixty-two percent of their workforce. Kathleen testified before Congress and worked with federal, state, and local officials

to develop a response plan to this workforce crisis. In partnership with the Department of Labor, she co-authored the nation's Dislocated Worker Program. This program would become the international model for retraining and reemploying workers impacted by the shifts in manufacturing and technology. It was such an impressive program that the United States Department of Labor, under President Reagan, provided nearly \$5 million in funding at a time when federal grants were few and far between.

Kathleen currently serves as president of Energized Solutions LLC, a firm specializing in transitioning individuals and organizations to "next economy" productivity. She has been a speaker at numerous national settings, served as the principle consultant on two documentaries focusing on the permanent workforce changes ("Layoff" and the NBC White Paper, "America Works When America Works"), and provided technical assistance to program staff from Canada, Europe, Russia, and to members of the 1994 G-7 Economic conference regarding the public policy responses to structural unemployment.

In addition to this, Kathleen is often called upon as a subject-matter expert for numerous national e-zines and printed media regarding the challenges of productive and balanced work and living in the 21st century. She is also is a leader in some of our region's most prominent women's organizations, and has been has been featured in "Women's Health Magazine," "The Feldman Report," the "Detroit Free Press," "Lansing Business Monthly," "World Policy Journal" and the "Oakland Business Review," to name a few.





Lou (Koss) Moss '73

Teacher, mentor, volunteer, organizer, civic leader, historian. These are just a few words inked on the pages of a resume that spans five single-spaced pages, covering the more than four decades of service Lou Moss has given to students, families, and the community at Marygrove College.

Following her graduation from Marygrove in 1973, where she earned a bachelor's degree in early child-hood growth and development, Lou began her career in education, teaching myriad subjects and every grade spanning kindergarten to eighth grade. For twelve years, Lou served Clintondale Community Schools where, in addition to teaching, she organized learning fairs for parents and students, led curriculum-development committees, directed children's plays, taught courses in calligraphy, and supervised a federally-funded remedial reading program in four elementary schools. During this time, Lou also earned her master's degree in reading education at Saginaw State University.

When her position at the Clintondale Community Schools was put on pause because of cutbacks, she—with the grace and poise that only Lou could have—moved into an entirely different career in the human resources division of General Motors. During her two-year tenure with the corporation, she supervised the Suggestion Plan Office, a program designed to reward General Motors employees for sharing innovative and fiscally-responsible suggestions with the corporation. As a result of her vision and extraordinary efforts, General Motors was able to save over \$5.9 million in 1986 alone.

Although Lou had taken a brief reprieve from her career in education, her friend Martina O'Sullivan, who has known Lou for more than forty years, says that Lou was never far from the hearts and minds of her former students. "Because of the way in which Lou is able to connect with young people, she has them seeking her out, even today, to let her know that she was a powerful and special influence in their lives."

Much like her former students, leadership at Clintondale Community Schools found themselves seeking Lou out, this time offering her the opportunity to design her own position. In 1988, after two years away from the school district, she returned as the director of communications and marketing, a position she would hold for another fifteen years until she retired in 2003.

Back on familiar turf, Lou immersed herself in her new position while also enriching the community and her school's culture by working with local media; coordinating millage and bond campaigns; hosting a talk show, the "Clintondale Close-Up;" directing and writing plays; and taking active roles in the Clintondale Education Foundation, the American Heart Walk, United Way, the Macomb Chamber of Commerce, the Clinton Township Gratiot Cruise Board of Directors, and the Clinton Township Blood Drive Committee, to name a few.

In 1990, Lou founded the Clinton Township Area Optimist Club and would later became a Grand Slam Distinguished President. She is a charter member of the Shelby Township Area Optimist Club, serves as an Optimist International field representative, was appointed by Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm to the Macomb County Commission of Higher Education in 2006, and has been nominated for and received numerous awards including Clinton Township's Citizen of the Year Award; the Optimist's Distinguished Governor Award; the Girl Scouts Women of Distinction Award; the Athena Award; and is a past Optimist International vice president.

At Marygrove, she has been the reunion coordinator and co-coordinator for nearly all of her class reunions since 1973. She has also worked the phone banks for the Marygrove Annual Fund and was asked to be the keynote speaker at a 2008 Marygrove College Teacher Mentor Workshop entitled "Optimism: Positive Communication for Teacher Mentors."

Lou met her husband, Dan Moss, at the 1996 Optimist International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. She and Dan were married on July 4, 1998, and enjoyed their honeymoon at the 1998 Optimist International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. She and her husband have three stepchildren and eight grandchildren.





Camryn A. Washington '18 MARYGROVE COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ALUMYI OF TOMORROW AWARD

From the start, Camryn Washington routinely defied her professors' expectations, proving that she was not only a superior writer, researcher and thinker, but also someone who was immune to the fear of taking intellectual and academic risks.

"In over four decades of college-level teaching, I have had few students who took such pleasure in thinking and learning and who, in turn, make teaching such a pleasure," says Dean of Faculty and Professor of English, Frank Rashid. Ask Camryn about her professors, particularly those she works with in the English department, and you'll find that the feelings are mutual: "All of my professors have been extremely supportive," says Camryn, "but Darcy Brandel and Frank Rashid continually push me to go further than I thought I could."

In addition to holding a 3.9 GPA, Camryn was awarded the English and Modern Languages Department's DeVlieg Scholarship for the promise she showed as a literary scholar. She is also the two-time recipient of the Amy S. McCombs-Frederick P. Currier Writing Award—an honor presented in conjunction with the college's annual Bauder Contemporary American Authors Lecture Series—and most recently, Camryn was awarded the 2016 St. Catherine Medal/Marygrove College Scholarship.

Her academic accomplishments alone are extraordinary. Equally impressive is her charisma, which belies the soft-spoken Camryn many of us met for the first time. Theresa Lindsey, who has mentored Camryn in the Marygrove College Success Center recalls first meeting with Camryn to help her schedule her freshman-year classes: "Upon initial approach Camryn might appear to be shy and soft spoken, but once she speaks, you realize that she is a powerful, dynamic, intelligent individual."

Further cementing Camryn's reputation is her distinguished record of service. She is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honors Society, and she regularly participates in the organization's community service projects. In addition to this, she teaches an after-school Bible class at University Prep Academy, volunteers at International Friends—a program for English language learners—and teaches Sunday school at her church.

Having completed nearly all of the required coursework for her English major and minor, Camryn is currently chipping away at her general education courses, anticipating graduation in December 2017, and planning for the future. As her resume suggests, Camryn is a gifted writer and a natural leader, so it only makes sense that her career aspirations would put both of these talents to good use. "After graduation, I want to teach and write," she says. "I am especially interested in teaching English as a second language—maybe here in the States or overseas in countries like Japan, Taiwan, or South Korea."

Special thanks to the Distinguished Alumni Award review committee for their commitment, diligence and integrity in selecting the award recipients.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD PAST HONOREES

2002

Veronica Mary Maher, IHM '51 Barbara Bigley O' Brien '55 Gilda Sferrella Pace '52 Marie Jean Brinkman Sloan '54 Teresa Snider-Boring '98 Norma Wilson Wade-Miller '71 Reverend Curtis C. Williams '96

2003

Gabrielle Baker Burton '60 Mary Margaret Connolly '67 Maura D. Corrigan '69 Ann Moore Feeney '57 Deborah Hunter-Harvill '77 Mary Joseph Maher, IHM '53 Alice Geisler Raftary '49, '67 Richard J. Samyn, O.F.M. '95

2004

Ann Gabriel Kilsdonk, IHM '45 Angela Celeste May '90 Khris Nedam '98 Elsa Potter '60 Elizabeth Fischer Richards '64 Mary Ellen Riordan '41 Mary Massaron Ross '82

2005

Rosemary DeLaurentiis Blaszkiewicz '62 Edee LaFramboise Joppich '53 Kathleen Prendergast Kaiser '70 Lorraine Lubawy Ozar '68 Nettie Harris Seabrooks '55 Mary Anderson Walker '56 Jacqueline G. Woods '97

2006

Brian Christian '07 Margaret Brown Dudar '46 Rita Edgeworth Fields '96, '02 Bridget Gonzales '82 Mary Kathleen Hughes '66 Sheila Keefe '56 Yesenia Lara '07 Amata Miller, IHM '54

2007

Elizabeth A. Burns '72 Armando R. Cavazos '99 Lana Cavalier Cowell '64 Suzanne M. Fleming, IHM '57 Lynne O' Loughlin DeGrande Hackathorn '67 Victoria E. Jones '76 Amy Pavlov '08

2008

Debra S. Barash '09 Patricia Newman Brasseur '73 Mary D. Moore Hubbell '56 Sharnita C. Johnson '87 Patricia Mucci LoRusso '77 Mary Trepanier-Street '71 Elizabeth Walters, IHM '66, '08

2009

Nancy McDonough Geschke '64 Eileen Connell Heasley '67 Sharon Holland, IHM '61 Amy Lange '08 Kathleen O'Reilly '68 Brianna Williams '09

2010

Margaret Brennan, IHM '45 Mark Honeyman '85 Suzanne Stead Husband '65 Patricia Siroky Konovalov '87 Ann Petrie '60 Kim Redigan '08 Angela Watley '10

2011

Shanelle Jackson '07 Ann Burger Klocke '56 Mary Callaghan Lynch '76 Brittany Mack '12 Judith Tomlanovich Miller '61 Jan Soleau, IHM '59 Virginia Wadsworth '86

2012

Juliana Casey, IHM '62 Miriam Mohrhoff Poirier '62 Dorothy Seebaldt '66 Sharon Rodgers Simone '67 Francie Kennedy '73 Rochelle Dornatt '77 Jarell Williams '12

2013

Dorothy Jones Hogan Sweeney '48 Barbara Kent Freeman '63 Suzanne E. Sattler, IHM '65 Virginia Burdick Skinner '67 Jane Hammang-Buhl '68 Karel Bowlus Oxley '72 Robert D. Tompkins '14

2014

Mary Ellen Johnson McCormick '48 Yvonne Lawrence Larabell '64 Anne Fitzgerald '67 Patricia Dean Phillips '13 Alesha Jones '14

2015

Mary Harris Martin '62 Judith Anne Eliassen, IHM '64 Carol Wagner Cousineau '67 Helen Kozlowski-Hicks '84 Sheila Dorsey-Smith '86 Tina Marie Perry '16



MARYGROVE COLLEGE

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