

All-Alumni Reunion 2019

Distinguished Alumni Awards

The Marygrove College Distinguished Alumni Award is an honor bestowed by Marygrove College and the Marygrove College Alumni Association. The award was established to recognize and honor alumni who have distinguished themselves and their alma mater.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards celebrate the values of:

- *Human Dignity (Respect and honor the inherent value of all persons)*
- *Community (Sustained engagement and responsibility for the common good)*
- *Social Justice (Ethical action that promotes equity and human rights)*
- *Ecological Justice (Action in support of the Earth Charter's commitment to "protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life)*
- *Excellence (Commitment to the highest quality student service and responsible leadership, grounded in a culture of high expectations, continuous assessment, and evidence-based decision making)*
- *Innovation (Imaginative energy toward new ideas and opportunities that lead to the development of a clear purpose and shared goals)*
- *Diversity (Appreciation, inclusion and acceptance of the uniqueness of each individual, welcoming differences in race, cultural background, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and perspective, among other attributes, through hiring, recruiting, marketing and community outreach practices).*

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*



MARYGROVE COLLEGE
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations



SHIRLEY OSTHOLM HINNAU '56

After earning her BA in history from Marygrove College in 1956, Shirley Ostholm Hinnau followed in the footsteps of her mentors and joined the Congregation of the Sisters,

Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. During this time, Shirley taught at several Detroit elementary schools while also serving as the social studies consultant for the Archdiocese of Detroit School Office. She also earned a master's degree in political science at the University of Detroit.

In 1970, she left the Congregation and pursued her PhD at Columbia University. Following this, she began a three-and-a-half-decade career at York College, where she served as coordinator of the political science discipline, pre-law adviser, and internship director of the Government and Public Affairs program. As New York City edged towards bankruptcy and looked for ways to cut

spending, the future of York College became increasingly bleak. Despite York's lack of resources, Shirley recalls the early days – particularly her students – with great fondness. "We were like a mini United Nations," she says, "joined together and determined to make a difference." So in 1976, when York faced closure, the community banded together. "In protest, we took buses to Albany and marched to city hall and to local elected officials' offices to gain support for York." York remains fully operational today.

Over the years, Shirley taught her fair share of classes, but few know about the quiet, philanthropic work she carried out behind the scenes. Shirley is reluctant to talk about these acts of kindness, but if

you speak to her friends and colleagues, you might hear about the time she found an "anonymous donor" to help a former student cover the expense of her last semester at York. Or maybe they'll tell you about the time she and her colleagues chipped in to purchase clothing for a student who was going to skip an award ceremony in which *he* was to be honored because he did not own a jacket. Stories like these abound.

Shirley retired from York College in 2009 and relocated to Florida, but she continues to assist the York College Foundation and is an active member of the Democratic Women's Club in St. John's County and also serves on the St. John's County Democratic Executive Committee.



JOAN GARBARINO '58, '72

Joan Ringlein Garbarino first passed through the gates of Marygrove College in 1954, earning her BS in biology four years later and graduating Magna Cum Laude. After graduation and a researching stint with Parke-Davis pharmaceutical company, she returned

to her alma mater, this time as a biology instructor. This would mark the beginning of a more than thirty-year career in education and community service.

In 1971, she joined Ferndale Community Schools as a volunteer reading tutor in adult education. Over the next seven years, she continued to serve the district not only as an educator, but also as curriculum coordinator, reading consultant, and project director of adult education. She also taught reading at St. Jude in Detroit and picked up another degree from Marygrove – an MEd, which she earned in 1972 – before signing on as coordinator of adult education at L'Anse Creuse Public Schools in Macomb County.

Between 1980 and 1999, Joan not only built L'Anse Creuse's specialized adult

education program from the ground up and oversaw the recruitment of students and staff, she also coordinated day school programs and evening adult education classes, and managed all of the program's finances. She can also take credit for boosting community support for the district when it came to voting for millage and bond issues. In tandem with these efforts, she also found the time and energy to earn her EdD from Western Michigan University in 1992.

Dr. Garbarino's nearly two decades of service on behalf of L'Anse Creuse have changed the trajectory of thousands of lives and the statistics speak for themselves. Between 1980 and 1999, approximately 2,000 students between the ages of 17-80 earned their diplomas

through the adult education program; another 267 students received diplomas through the correctional education program at the jail; and an additional 721 students at the jail passed the GED test.

For her exemplary work, Dr. Garbarino has earned state awards, including a special tribute by the state senate of Michigan, and numerous accolades from L'Anse Creuse including awards for exemplary leadership; a certificate of appreciation acknowledging her support of the Macomb County Strong Families/Safe Children Initiative; a resolution by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners recognizing her outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the citizens of Macomb County; and many others.



SR. BARBARA (ANN BARBARA) BEESLEY '64

Barbara Beesley, or Sister Barb as many of us know her, grew up in Northwest Detroit knowing that she was destined for a life that was out of the ordinary. While she could never have fully anticipated the path she would take, she does remember hearing – and

initially *resisting* – the call to religious service that began nudging her during her last year of high school. “My faith was important to me,” she says, “but something in me still resisted the religious life.”

In 1959, after a year at Marygrove’s Detroit campus and two years of soul searching, she heeded the call, joining the IHM Sisters for formation in Monroe, Michigan. After earning her BA in English from Marygrove in 1964, she began a 13-year career in elementary and high school education, teaching in a number of schools throughout metro Detroit and in Pontiac and Lansing. Following this, she joined the parish at St. Rita in Detroit where she worked with the worship and education committees for a decade.

Sister Barb’s career as a protester and peace activist may have begun during the Vietnam War, but “This,” she says with a laugh, “is the point in the story where my life of crime begins.”

In tandem with her service at St. Rita, Sister Barb began to work more closely with the Detroit Peace Community, an anti-war and peace ministry that set its sights on corporations like Bendix and Williams International, two companies that contributed to the proliferation of nuclear arms. “To stop companies like this,” she says, “sometimes it’s not enough to ‘write a letter to the editor’; you’ve got to put your body there to say no.”

Her first arrest for protesting peacefully was on August 6, 1982, at Bendix Corporation’s strategic air base in Oscoda, Michigan. Over the years, she’s continued to use her body as an instrument of protest and has quite a rap sheet to prove it.

Over the last three and a half decades, Sister Barb has worked with organizations like the Committee for Sane Nuclear Policy; Friends in Deed; the Ypsilanti Housing Commission; and Groundwork for a Just World in Detroit. Additionally, she served as Marygrove’s associate campus minister from 2005 until 2017. And is an adjunct professor in Marygrove’s Social Justice program.



RENÉE AHEE '72

Ask Renée Ahee how she feels about Marygrove College, and rest assured, you’ll find out *exactly* where she stands. “My blood runs green and gold,” she says. “Marygrove gave me the life I’ve had and, in turn, the life I’ve been able to give my children.”

Renée graduated from a Catholic girls’ high school with few options since her family could not afford college. Her dad died when she was 18 and her mom was a seamstress. “I would never have been able to go to college except for Marygrove.” Marygrove offered Renée a scholarship. Thanks to that, and a state of Michigan grant, everything changed.

After earning a BA with a double major in journalism and humanities, Renée leapt into the world of public relations, with a couple banks, a production company, and a telephone company before spending 15 years at the former NBD Bank (now Chase Bank), where she served in a number of executive roles from second vice president to VP and project manager of retail integration communications. During this time, she also picked up an

MSF in corporate finance from Walsh College, graduating with high honors.

After leaving Bank One in 1999, Renée set out on her own, establishing In Other Words, LLC, a public relations company. Four years later, she became program coordinator at University of Michigan – Dearborn’s Center for Arab American Studies. In 2007, she, along with her friends Jumana Judeh and Rose Khalifa, co-founded the Arab American Women’s Business Council (AAWBC), an organization which provides education, professional development and networking opportunities for Arab American business and professional women. She also served as the organization’s CEO in 2015.

Through her work, Renée has given a voice to the voiceless, particularly Arab, Hispanic, and Asian Americans. Renée served as CEO of the National Arab American Medical Association from 2009-2015, providing strategic and operational leadership, regaining the organization’s full medical education accreditation, and leading international and national medical conventions.

In 2016, Renée returned to Marygrove to serve as director of communications and marketing, a position she also held from 2006-2009.

She donates her time and talent as board member of Metro Solutions, Volunteers of America Michigan, and the National American Arab Nurses Association, where she also serves as president.



ANTHONY WHITE '05

Anthony White had his sights set on Moorhouse College. He’d never even heard of Marygrove, but after being approached by then Director of Financial Aid Donald Hurt, he accepted an invitation to audition for the music department. “I’ll never forget

it,” he laughs. “I sang ‘Old Man River’ and was completely out of tune – but for some reason they gave me a four-year scholarship.” Anthony had a lot to learn, but his professors sensed the raw talent hidden. “They taught me how to walk,” says Anthony. “They invested time into me and my voice. I am forever grateful.”

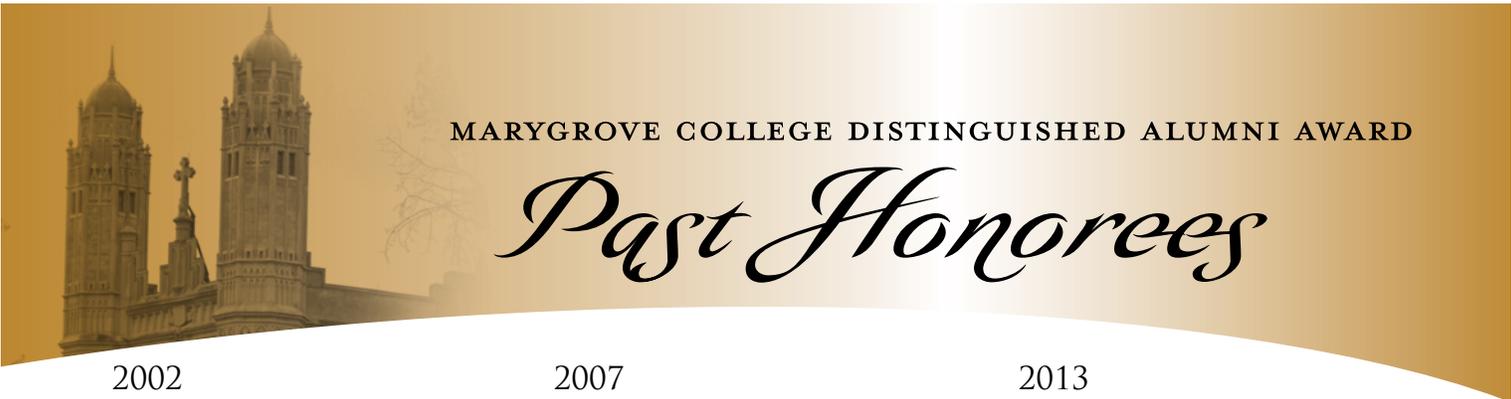
Even before earning his BA in music in 2005, Anthony began dipping his toe into what would become his career. In 2001, he met Fleming Ivory, director of the Detroit Children’s Choir. Like Anthony’s Marygrove mentors, Fleming saw something in the undergraduate and asked him to join the organization. Two years later, at only twenty-one years old, Anthony was directing the same group, which he renamed the Detroit Youth Concert Choir (DYCC).

Nearly 20 years later, the DYCC would electrify the nation and give one of the most epic, tear-jerking performances *America’s Got Talent* has ever seen, earning them the golden buzzer. Anthony and his 65-piece youth choir performed in the semi-finals on September 10, which could propel them to the two-night finale on September 17 and 18 (at press time, we were awaiting the results with bated breath). Winning only seems marginally important to Anthony. “I feel like we’ve already won. What’s most important are the kids: believing in them and letting them grow.”

In addition to directing the DYCC, which rehearses sometimes four times a week, Anthony is also a full-time music teacher for Oak Park Public Schools. Then, on Sundays, he takes his place as minister of

music at Victory Community Church in Detroit. It’s a hectic schedule, but Anthony notes that his work with the church often propels him through the rest of the week. “Church is my spiritual release,” he says. “It’s my way of thanking God for allowing me to do what I do. Being a part of Victory makes my life and work so much easier.”

Anthony is the recipient of numerous awards including the Spirit of Detroit, the Mary McLeod Bethune, the DMC Community Service, and *Michigan Chronicle’s* 40 Under 40 Awards.



MARYGROVE COLLEGE 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
Bianna 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

2016

Alice Baker, IHM '59
Peggy (Margaret) Devaney, IHM '64
Barbara Jean Nienstedt Buttell '65
Kathleen Alessandro '72
Lou (Koss) Moss '73
Camryn A. Washington '18

2017

Barbara G. Stanbridge, IHM '63
Catherine Haven Rohlman '72
Christine Kennedy '72
Sylvia Colding Manlove '82, '91
John Meulendyk '97
Dursej Wade, Jr. '18

2018

Kathryn Therese Pierce, IHM '59
Shirley Liss '66
Marguerite Williams-Harris '03
Monique Stanton '11