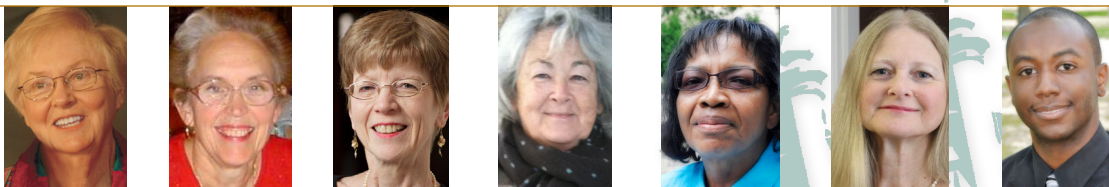


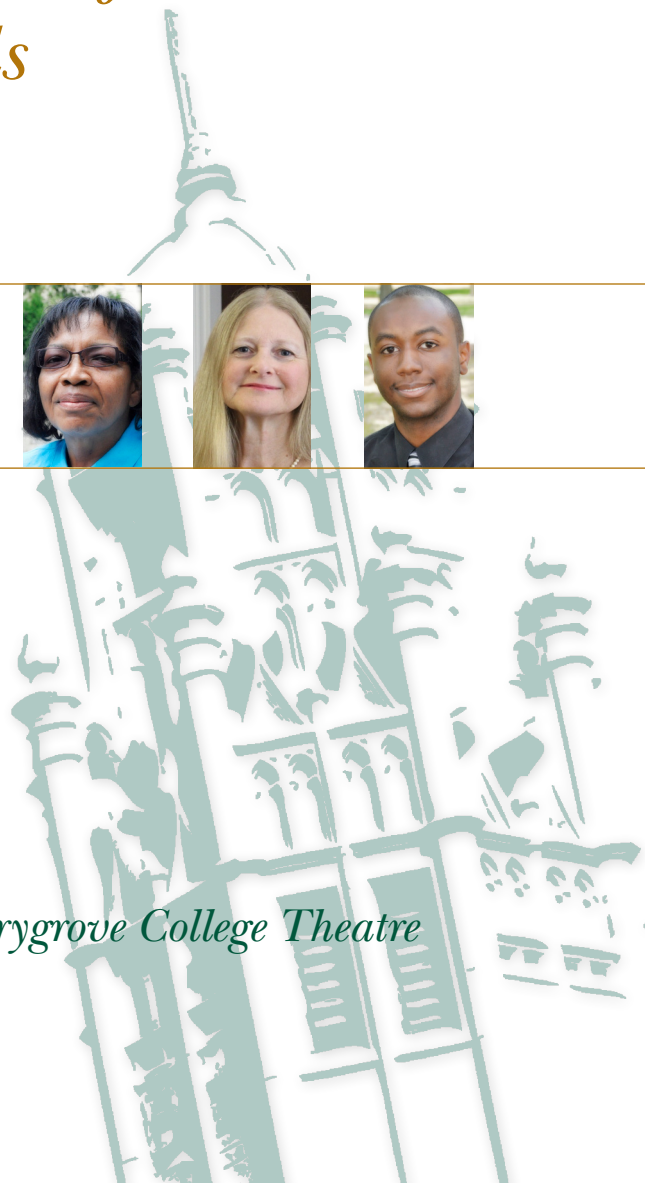
2012

MARYGROVE COLLEGE

Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Alumni of Tomorrow Awards



Friday, September 14 • The Marygrove College Theatre



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OF TOMORROW AWARDS

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 (2012-2013 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



Juliana Casey, IHM '62

When she could no longer resist the call to ministry, Juliana Casey joined the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1964. She had already earned a Bachelor of Arts in French from Marygrove College and a master's degree in French, from the University of Michigan. The Second Vatican Council was underway which signaled profound changes in the Catholic Church and in religious communities such as the IHM Sisters. A visionary response to Vatican II by then President Margaret Brennan, IHM '45, was to select several sisters to obtain doctorates in theology. Sister Margaret believed that if women were to make a difference, they needed to deal with the extraordinary developments coming from Vatican II.

Sister Juliana Casey was among those chosen and was sent to the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium. Over the next seven years she progressed from a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology to a Licentiate and then to a Doctorate in Sacred Theology specializing in the New Testament.



On her return to America, Sister Julie became an assistant professor of scripture studies at St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana. After teaching for two years, Sister Julie served for six years as Provincial of the Northeast Province of the IHM Sisters in Monroe, Michigan. While she was Provincial, Sister Julie was the Leadership Conference of Women Religious' representative on the Bishops' Committee responsible for the 1983 Pastoral Letter on War and Peace. She also was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Marygrove in 1984. After her terms of office as Provincial were completed, Sister Julie taught religious studies in the graduate program at Mundelein College in Chicago.

Calling on her administrative experience and extensive education in theology, Sister Julie accepted the position of associate vice-president of the Catholic Health Association (CHA) of America headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. Her responsibilities in the division of theology, mission and ethics in the national organization of Catholic hospitals and health facilities were education and leadership development, and formation. She traveled and lectured extensively, and collaborated on the creation of *Healthcare Leadership: Shaping A Tomorrow* for the CHA in 1989, an early resource for

the formation of leaders within the Catholic healthcare ministry. Another book, *Food for the Journey: Theological Foundations of Catholic Healthcare*, was published by CHA in 1991 and is still in print.

In 1994, after several years with CHA, Sister Julie was named director and later vice-president of mission services for the Sisters of Mercy Health System of St. Louis.

Continuing in healthcare ministry, Sister Julie moved eastward to become executive vice-president of Catholic Health East (CHE). The CHE covers a huge area of the east coast from Maine to Florida, more than 30 hospitals in 11 states with offices in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania. The scope of her work included formation for sponsors, some of whom were lay people, and leadership at many levels. She worked with Global Health Ministry (CHE's global outreach program), joined teams of practitioners who served in Haiti and Peru, and helped secure funding for programs, especially those in Haiti. She learned of the need for maternity care through a

request from the Archbishop of Port au Prince. Built with \$100,000 donated by Catholic Health East, the new maternity unit was the only part of the hospital complex left standing after the disastrous earthquake. It was quickly transformed into a life saving surgical unit.

Always aware of the needs of the poor, Sister Julie led an effort throughout the 30 plus hospitals of Catholic Health East to enhance the many existing program that serve homeless persons. She brought a number of volunteer organizations within the system together to broaden help for the homeless, enhance the efficiency of services and raise the consciousness of the entire system.

Although Sister Julie officially retired in December 2010, she continues to write, give lectures and conduct retreats. She also serves as one of the Sponsors (persons accountable for the fidelity and integrity of Catholic institutions) of the Providence Ministries, which includes a very large Catholic health system, a Catholic university and multiple other Catholic ministries located in Alaska, Washington State, Oregon, Montana and California. She also earns a lot of frequent traveler miles!

Miriam Mohrhoff Poirier '62

Two of the women celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation from Marygrove met as freshmen because of an unusual connection. Their fathers worked together at Parke Davis and arranged for them to meet. Miriam Mohrhoff had returned to Detroit to attend Marygrove after 10 years in a Canadian boarding school and didn't know a soul in Detroit. Miriam, better known as Mimi, met Mary Harris and soon they embarked on a lifelong friendship as they journeyed by bus each day from their eastside homes to Marygrove. Inspired by Sister Mary Cabrini, IHM, with a passion for science and a thirst for more scientific education, Mimi earned her first degree, a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Magna Cum Laude.

Mimi continued her education at the University of Wisconsin (UW), Madison, and was awarded a Master of Science in Oncology in 1964. She met and married her husband, also a scientist, in Madison. She worked part time as a laboratory assistant at UW until her husband accepted a position in Montreal, Canada. Mimi Mohrhoff, now Poirier, had three children- two sons and a daughter. The move to Montreal meant a delightful reunion with her college friend, now Mary Harris Martin. According to Mary, "We picked up right where we had left off. We talked on the phone, enjoyed each other's children, Christmas shopped in downtown Montreal, did all the things sisters or really good friends do." But by 1971, Mimi and her husband and trio of children were headed south again, this time to the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

Cancer has many forms and many targets in the human body. At the National Cancer Institute Mimi undertook her research career as a lab assistant in the Lung Cancer Branch, division of Cancer Cause and Prevention. She also studied for her doctorate at Catholic University in nearby Washington, D.C., earning a Ph.D in Microbiology in 1977. She progressed in responsibility through several sections in the division until 1997 when she was named head of the newly established Carcinogen-DNA Interactions Section (CDI), a position she continues to hold. All told she has worked for the National Cancer Institute for 41 years.

Dr. Poirier has a strong history of developing novel methods to solve research problems thought to

be intractable. According to colleagues, she is an internationally recognized leader in the field of human DNA biomonitoring who has discovered ways to see inside of cells to assess damage or alterations. To greatly simplify her extraordinary work, Dr. Poirier has revealed human DNA damage caused by numerous environmental factors and pharmaceutical agents. Her lab pioneered studies in pregnant women infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1), the cause of AIDS, showing that damage to the DNA of uninfected infants occurred in utero as a result of drug therapy given pregnant women to prevent mother-to-child infection. Much of her work is geared toward making treatment for various cancers and for HIV-1 infection safe for those who receive it and showing the extent of danger from the use of certain drugs or therapies. As a result of her studies with Zidovudine (AZT), the first drug licensed for use in HIV-infection, the US Food and Drug Administration changed the information materials contained in the packaging of that drug, and the CDC altered their Guidelines for the use of antiviral drugs in HIV-infected pregnant women.



Dr. Poirier is a strong voice in the fields of cancer and human biomonitoring, documented by authorship or co-authorship of 250 papers published in professional journals in the U.S. and abroad. Her research is also cited in 369 abstracts.

Describing her work, Dr. Poirier says, "Research by its very nature has frustrations but, over time, I have become very patient. And when it works it is a wonderful affirmation."

But there is another side of life for Mimi. She unwinds by strumming her guitar and singing with a band that plays Bluegrass and Old Time music. Over the years she has been an avid sailor and teacher of sailing in the Chesapeake Bay, but with an ailing mother and young grandchildren at opposite ends of the country her sailing time has substantially diminished.

Despite her numerous honors and awards, Mimi claims her greatest achievement is her three children. One son is a professor of physics and chemistry, another is a builder and artist, and her daughter is a photo journalist who also owns and is the primary teacher for an Irish dance school.

Dorothy Seebaldt '66

Dorothy Seebaldt lives by Marygrove's Social Work Program motto: "Be prepared to get involved." She describes her students as serious and goal-oriented individuals who strive to balance school, work, and home responsibilities to attain a college education. "I often wonder how they manage to handle everything," she says, "Their determination to succeed is remarkable. They have been my teachers as much as I have been theirs."

A serious student herself, Dorothy Seebaldt entered the IHM order immediately after high school and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Marygrove's Motherhouse campus, followed by a master's degree in Philosophy from St. Louis University. She then began teaching in Marygrove's Philosophy Department. Dorothy also spent several years teaching in other Detroit area schools: St. Rose, Holy Redeemer and Marian High Schools. Her teaching experiences fostered a long-standing desire to serve those disadvantaged by society.

After a summer spent at the *Catholic Worker* in New York, Dorothy traveled to France to serve as a live-in assistant at a *L'Arche* community. The *L'Arche* international movement was founded by Jean Vanier, as a nurturing place for persons with physical or mental limitations. His premise was, "We are all limited and wounded—both those serving and those being served." She describes her experience at a *L'Arche* as challenging, joyful and "life transforming."

Her educational journey took another turn when she pursued a master's degree in Social Work from Wayne State University. She served two years as group home director for Vista Maria, a residential school program for troubled, adolescent girls. She also worked as a Medical Social Worker at Detroit Receiving Hospital helping families deal with loss, trauma, and the need for out-of-home care.

Dorothy returned to Marygrove in the newly accredited Social Work program. She soon became director of the program and served as its director for over 15 years. During the 25 plus years she has been part of the department, the Bachelor of Social Work program has become one of the largest of Marygrove's undergraduate programs. According to Debbie Hanselman '00, LMSW, her colleague and former student, "The program has a pristine reputation in the metro Detroit area for graduating students fully prepared for bachelor level social work practice or graduate programs. Dorothy has been a guiding force in the program's reputation of excellence."

After 25 years as an IHM sister, Dorothy made a prayerful decision to leave the Congregation, but continued in her position at Marygrove. Regarding her life as a vowed religious, she says, "I am so grateful to the IHM sisters for the numerous ways in which they have helped shape my life. I owe much to them: my outstanding education, faith nourishment, social justice orientation, and lasting friendships."

Dorothy created certificate programs in Child Welfare and Gerontology, and is director of both programs. She is a licensed medical social worker (LMSW) by the State of Michigan and is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers of the National Association of Social Workers.

She has been a presenter at professional conferences, published works on both group process and ethical dilemmas, and is a site visitor for the Council on Social Work Education for the accreditation process of Social Work degree programs in the U.S.

Dorothy has written a number of successfully funded grant proposals, including a Michigan Women's Foundation grant used in start up costs for development of the two social work certificate programs. She wrote grants that funded more than 60 federal child welfare traineeships. These grants amounted to nearly

\$600,000. They provided tuition to a selected group of Department of Human Services employees for enrollment in Marygrove's social work program. She also originated the development of eight transfer agreements which serve to recruit graduates of community colleges to Marygrove for undergraduate degree completion.

She currently serves as the Social Work Field Director, placing and supervising social work students completing required internships in social service agencies. In this role she has built relationships with agencies throughout the tri-county area and collaborates with them in the work of forming future generations of professional social workers.

Now married, Dorothy and her husband Tad Dunne, both professors, support and encourage one another in their work of education. They enjoy all aspects of life together—be it work or relaxation. "Tad is a gift of life to me."

Finally, her commitment to the mission of Marygrove is well summed up by Debbie Hanselman: "The terms 'Marygrove BSW' and 'Dorothy Seebaldt' are synonymous."



Sharon Rodgers Simone '67

"Marygrove was an oasis for me. I was safe and I learned to think," says Sharon Rodgers Simone '67. Her childhood wish to help make the world a better place solidified at Marygrove into a thirst for social justice. While in high school and determined to save for college, Sharon worked full time shifts, three nights a week in the pediatrics ward of St. Francis Hospital in her hometown of Colorado Springs, Colorado. She scraped together enough money to enroll at Marygrove knowing that, as the eldest of seven, she could expect no help from home. While attending Marygrove, Sharon worked off-campus jobs to pay for tuition and board.

The day after Sharon was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Biology she marched slowly down the aisle of the Marygrove Chapel to marry Patrick Simone. Four children quickly followed their marriage. Both were active in the Civil Rights Movement and pledged, in the wake of that summer's riot, to stay in Detroit and see it become racially integrated and once again peaceful. The family's resolve to remain in the city was tested by escalating violence and little movement toward integration. When her father-in-law, who lived in upstate New York, was diagnosed with lung cancer they moved to Vermont to be near him. It was a safe and peaceful place, unlike life in Detroit.



"My consciousness as a woman grew exponentially in Vermont through participation in women's groups... poetry writing and women's spirituality," remembers Sharon. She also taught sciences and worked as a medical technologist before applying to the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She was 39. In 1984, now with six children, they set out for Boston, the beginning of 18 years of professional achievement for Sharon which included a master's degree and doctoral studies at Harvard and much else. From 1986 to 1992, Sharon was a Teaching Fellow in curriculum seminars in Science and Humanities at Harvard. She also taught at Lesley Graduate School, also in Cambridge until 2001.

At Harvard, Sharon immersed herself in the study of "power relationship and power dynamics." She began to look backward and acknowledged some terrible truths about her father, her mother and her growing up years. In 1990, Sharon and her sister, Susan Hammond, sued their father in Denver District Court for childhood physical, sexual and emotional abuse. He was the FBI Agent in charge of the Colorado Springs office and a national expert in child abuse prevention. They won the landmark case and were awarded

\$2.3 million but their father fled to Mexico to avoid the judgment.

Their story was told on *20/20 ABC News: Incest A Crime Never Forgotten* and in a CBS television movie: *Ultimate Betrayal* in which Marlo Thomas played Sharon. In 1994, the Child Abuse Accountability Act was passed in the U.S. Congress with the sponsorship of Representative Patricia Schroeder and four years of lobbying – an initiative Sharon pioneered. The law allows federal pensions to be garnished to pay for child abuse judgments. Sharon has lectured and been a panelist all over the country on sexual assault, related violence and the process of recovery for victims.

Her connection with Detroit and Marygrove remains strong. Distressed when the Archdiocese closed all the Catholic high schools in Detroit, Sharon joined a team in a feasibility study for Christo Rey Catholic High School. Sharon was able to contribute her expertise in curriculum development which includes a unique work component to defray students' tuition costs. Christo Rey held its first graduation in 2012 with 100 percent of the graduates headed to college.

When Sharon learned of the plans for a new Master of Social Justice degree program at Marygrove, she mobilized a fundraiser and recruitment event. The film *PeaceXPeace: Women on the Frontlines* was shown in the Marygrove Theatre (first shown by Hilary Clinton at the United Nations). At Sharon's invitation, producer Patricia Smith Melton and Naomi Tutu (daughter of Bishop Desmond Tutu) spoke about the film and the role of women in peace building. Still very involved with the Social Justice program, Sharon co-teaches the Foundations and Reflections courses.

After raising six children, Sharon and her husband relocated to California where they raised their granddaughter after their daughter died. It is also where Sharon established Headwaters Productions and collaborated with a burgeoning program in leadership development, especially among non-traditional leaders in South Los Angeles and to delve further into the theories and practices of healing and peace building. A published poet, Sharon plans to devote the coming years to writing – prose and poetry – rooted in the consciousness that has evolved in her and which she says "...is rooted in the values instilled at Marygrove."

Francie Kennedy '73

The year 1968 was pivotal for Marygrove College as well as the City of Detroit as institutions and individuals struggled to take corrective action after the riot of the previous summer revealed deep divisions between the races. Interim President, Jane Mary Howard '40, IHM, initiated "68 for 68"- a recruitment program designed to attract 68 additional black students for the fall. Francie Kennedy was a member of that historical event. According to Valerie Deering '72, "Francie exemplifies the values espoused by the IHM Sisters: equal treatment for all of God's children, service to others, devotion to God and love of family."

Francie, a 1968 graduate of Northwestern High School in Detroit, became part of the well-meaning program to make the student population of Marygrove more reflective of the community surrounding it. Francie was reluctant to trust this new environment. However, she soon settled in the dorm, made friends and came to love Marygrove and appreciate the discipline and respect she found there. Kathleen Alessandro '72 recalls, "From the moment we met in the fall of 1968, we all knew that Francie was special. While we were the same age, Francie had authentic maturity, substance and confidence that set her apart from the other frenetic frosh. We all looked to her for guidance, validation and approval." This sagacity she received from her grandmother.



In 1973 she completed her studies with a major in economics and a minor in math, later becoming employed with the United States Postal Service.

Cynthia Wilson-Bradford '73 states, "Francie's relationship with her grandmother was so important in her life that she promised herself she would give back the kind of love and attention she received to children who, for one reason or another, did not have parents. Francie wanted to adopt children. She first became a foster parent almost 20 years ago. During that time, she helped about 29 children through the most trying times of their young lives."

Francie was a foster parent to children ages newborn to five years old, many of whom remained in her care until they were reunited with family or adopted. She was delighted when she was able to adopt her first daughter, Alysia and soon after she adopted her son Michael. Later she adopted three more children as newborns, twins Michelle and Micha, now 11, and James who is now 10.

While registering Alysia for ninth grade at the Detroit International Academy for Young Women (DIA), Francie had an unexpected reunion with former classmate Glenda Whitaker Williams '72, who was the school's Assistant Principal. Glenda wrote, "Totally surprised is an adequate euphemism for what we felt when we recognized each other. However, it was then that I found out the full scope of Francie's charity and good will with the children that our society gives little chance of succeeding or even finding a stable home. Francie made sure they were not among the forgotten or the ignored. She loved them and was diligently seeking schools that would provide the best educational opportunities for their continued educational growth. Not only did she enroll her daughter at DIA, but she immediately signed up as parent volunteer, became treasurer for the LSCO (Local School Community Organization) and a valuable liaison between parents and administration." Around the DIA she is affectionately known as the "Uniform Lady." She believes that every girl should be dressed in dignity, so where needed she uses her own resources to clothe "Lady Panthers."

This year Francie was elated to have Michael and Alysia graduate from high school. Alysia completed DIA with numerous scholarships and will be attending Wayne State University in the fall. Michael finished University Prep and is enrolled in Focus Hope's Industrial Technology program.

Francie was formerly an active participant of the Skillman Foundation Review Team, Project Graduation, and is currently involved with the Detroit Parent Network.

Dr. George Hermann Derry, Marygrove's first president, encouraged the women of Marygrove "to look beyond the prospect of eventual marriage and to become capable of doing her part in the world's work in whatever sphere of life she may be placed." Marygrove's ideals today are competency, compassion and commitment. The former ideals cannot be accomplished without the attributes of the latter. With great competency, Francie Kennedy has taken on the world's work with the spirit of compassion and a soul of commitment doing her part where she was placed ... in the hearts of each of her children.

Rochelle Dornatt '77

Upon graduation from Marygrove in 1977, Rochelle Dornatt considered law school, VISTA among several options, to realize her goal of helping to create a just society that served the people. To the consternation of her parents, she chose to load her possessions into her car and head for Washington, D.C. with \$600 and an urge to serve. IHM Sisters she knew in the District invited her to stay with them until she found an apartment. Ten days later she was hired as a junior lobbyist for solar energy and living in her own place.

When Representative Sam Farr of Carmel, California was elected to Congress in 1993 he asked Rochelle to be his Chief of Staff, a position she continues to hold. Rochelle manages the Washington office and a ten member staff known affectionately as "Team Farr" as well as two district offices in California. She previously handled legislative affairs for several other representatives until they retired or were defeated.

During her time on Capitol Hill, Rochelle has been a major force behind some of the most significant legislation of the last three decades. She was the lead congressional staff member writing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a ground breaking civil rights law that prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities. Five years in the making, the bill required building coalitions among the transportation and hospitality industries, the Chamber of Commerce, labor, housing and many other interested parties along with disability rights organizations.

Another major legislative victory, that also took years, resulted in multiple changes to the laws dealing with the closure of military bases (Base Realignment and Closure or BRAC). Rochelle's first meeting on her first day with Rep. Farr strategized on how to empower the community to take control of the former Ft. Ord in Monterey County California, the nation's largest military base until it was shut down in 1991. The Army intended to sell the base in parcels to the highest bidders, ignoring environmental and economic impact issues. In the case of Ft. Ord, the land is now home to a state park with biking/hiking trails plus a new Cal State University campus. A vibrant new community now includes an equestrian center, youth hostel, housing, a university research park, an industrial airstrip, child care facilities, transition centers for homeless veterans, training centers for the unemployed and 8500 acres of open space park land.



Regarding Rochelle's work on Medicare issues, campaign finance law and labor matters, Rep. Farr states "She first and foremost considers the impact of policy actions on others and tries hard to mold government to be a positive force in people's lives; she talks of this often – it is a mantra with her." He credits Rochelle's Marygrove training for this.

Rochelle mentors young women who plan a career in government through the "Emerging Leaders" program at the Stennis Center and she has been known to shelter homeless women and help them get back on their feet.

Every Friday morning Rochelle joins a "reflection group" hosted by Faith and Politics. She says the bipartisan group helps members "... recognize that we are all people—God's people—and the best way to serve God is to serve each other."

Rochelle pushed for the restoration of the Historic Congressional Cemetery, now a centerpiece for Capitol tours and no longer a haven for vandals, criminals and drug users. Another D.C. landmark under restoration thanks to her interest and connections, the Civil War- era old Naval Hospital will soon be home to after school programs, adult education, a community computer center, arts and crafts, and meeting room — uses designated by community groups.

On weekends Rochelle segues from her often 12-hour days in the political arena to the quieter life of a small farmer. In March she begins planting cold tolerant greens like lettuce and continues planting, cultivating and harvesting until November. Eighteen tomato vines yield enough for a winter's worth of canned tomatoes, spaghetti sauce and salsa. Her root vegetables and squashes, carefully stored, last the winter. She cans or freezes beans, peas and other crops that are more than she can eat at harvest time.

Thanks to a gift certificate from a friend, Rochelle has discovered the thrill of the flying trapeze and has found a partner for the catches —naturally, with a net.

Drawing on her heritage, Rochelle enjoys preparing authentic Polish dishes for her annual Christmas party, a sought after invitation in D.C. She tops off the festivities with her homemade vodka.

Jarell Williams '12

Jarell Williams' love of numbers led him to choose a business major in accounting. At Northwestern High School, he met Marygrove Admissions Counselor Craig Boyd who persuaded him to choose Marygrove for his studies. Both Jarell, and the host of Marygrove professional staff members and professors who nominated him for the Marygrove College Distinguished Alumnus of Tomorrow Award, are happy he did.

As a freshman, Jarell asked President David Fike to be his mentor and Dr. Fike agreed to advise the ambitious young student. In turn, as an upperclassman Jarell has served as a mentor to younger students. He has been involved all over the campus—from manning a shovel on campus beautification days in the spring to serving as a peer leader during new student orientation week. He began working in the Admissions office in 2010 on data entry and special projects and according to his supervisor Anny Meek, he was always cheerful and competent. Presently, Jarell handles accounts receivable in the Financial Services Office.

The importance of Jarell's academic leadership is emphasized by Dr. Darcy Brandel, Assistant Professor of English, "I learned to depend on Jarell to model the kinds of study habits and intellectual disposition we seek to teach our students. He consistently brought a level of insight to class discussions that would have been lacking without his presence." Dr. Jerry Peterson, also an Assistant Professor of English, commented, "In our on-line discussion forum, Jarell set the standard for thorough and engaging reading responses, and more than a few students commented on the quality of Jarell's weekly posting and how his work inspired them to step up a notch in their own weekly writings."

Professor Theodora Williams (unrelated) writes about his growth as a person and student, "All of these accomplishments underscore Jarell's growth and demonstrate how his development, both personal and academic, aligns with the College's core values of compassion, commitment and competency. Jarell epitomizes the fulfillment of the mission of a Marygrove education: to educate students to become traditional and non-traditional leaders in their community." He has been on the Dean's List every semester since he enrolled at Marygrove. He was selected to attend University Partners



Student Leadership Program, an opportunity to network with company representatives as well as students from other colleges and universities. Jarell was the recipient of a merit award—the St. Catherine's Medal Scholarship.

The youngest of nine children -- six brothers and two sisters -- Jarell is the last one at home and will be the first to receive a college degree. He says he was brought up "...to be a genuine person, trustworthy, honest—a man who is known to say what he means and mean what he says." He adds, with humility, that "he aspires to nobility."

Jarell explores the City on foot and especially enjoys the downtown River Walk with its fountains and views of two countries. He wishes the best for Detroit but after graduation he plans to join his sister in Atlanta, Georgia, hoping for a warm climate and a warm reception for his accounting skills. He has his eye on becoming a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) knowing that it will require years of field experience and a rigorous examination. Jarell is ready for both. He knows the value of networking and is already circulating his resume through family and friends even though he is months from completing his degree.

Something of a film buff, Jarell says that nothing beats the big screen in a darkened theater. The television set and VCR come in a distant second. He especially likes the classic dark films of Alfred Hitchcock and Orson Welles but also the more contemporary work of Martin Scorsese and Clint Eastwood. Jarell's enjoyment of reading takes him in many directions --science fiction, fantasy, mystery novels and even the occasional comic book.

All those who supported Jarell's nomination as Marygrove's Distinguished Alumnus of Tomorrow, his many friends on campus and his family believe that he exemplifies the qualities of competence, compassion and commitment that are hallmarks of Marygrove.

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 Feeny '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



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

Linda Anderson '01

Toni Babcock '47

Mark Bartnik '79

Brenda Bryant, Ph.D.
Dean of Community Based Learning and
Executive Director of the Center for Social Justice and
Community Engagement

Mary Jo Durivage '71

Sharon Sweeney Grisdale '58

Janet Hunt '66

Pizarro Lovelace '84

Mary Ann Markel, IHM '55

Diane Puhl
Director of Alumni Relations/Alumni Annual Giving

Janie Sheraw '99

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The Mission of Marygrove College

Marygrove College, an independent Catholic liberal arts college sponsored by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, is committed to fostering Christian values, to educating students from diverse backgrounds, and to serving the people of Metropolitan Detroit and beyond. The fundamental purpose of Marygrove College is to educate each student toward intellectual and professional competence; toward career flexibility through grounding in the liberal arts; and toward active compassion and commitment. To this end, Marygrove College provides a personalized learning environment which, through excellent teaching in its undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs, sets for its students these goals:

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.

Commitment, the will to act responsibly based upon one's beliefs and to contribute to the building of a more just and humane world.



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MARYGROVE COLLEGE
8425 West McNichols Road
Detroit, Michigan 48221-2599

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