Congratulations to the Mount Mary University Fashion Department on celebrating 50 fabulous years.

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Mount Mary University students model garments from their couture class for local, national and French press during Heritage Milwaukee’s Fashion Week in 1969. Far left: Sr. Mary Aloyse Hessburg, SSND
Tonight’s theme “The Threads of Fashion” brings to mind the many remarkable relationship threads that we “sew” throughout our lives. The Mount Mary Fashion Department has been blessed to have strong relationships for 50 years and we will continue to engage our students and our community well into the future.

We envision a future that leverages our Historic Costume Collection as a truly unique educational, scholarly and artistic resource to students and scholars and a continuation of our strong legacy in Fashion Design and Merchandise Management education. We invite you to engage with us as we build upon our strong foundation and create an exciting future. Thank you for joining us this evening!

Barbara Armstrong
Dean of the School of Arts & Design

Mount Mary University
Sr. Aloyse Hessburg, SSND, (center below) founder of Mount Mary University’s fashion program, attends a fashion show in designer Ron Amey’s New York Studio in the 1960’s. Ron Amey specialized in creating dramatic evening wear and helped establish a fashion course at Mount Mary in 1968.
Tonight, we celebrate 50 years of strength and staying-power with the Mount Mary University fashion program. From its visionary beginnings under the leadership of Sister Aloyse Hessburg, our program underscores the entrepreneurial spirit of our founders, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who unveiled the nation’s first four-year fashion design program at Mount Mary in 1965. We are proud of the innovative, social and functional imprint our Mount Mary women have made in the world of fashion including tonight’s Honorary Co-Chairs Donna Ricco and Karen Davidson. These two, outstanding alumnae continue to create, inspire and lead. They are joined by other amazingly talented Mount Mary fashion graduates who contribute to the fashion industry in fresh ways, adding their generational voices and socially conscious perspectives.

We like to say that our Mount Mary women find success in significance. They transform us as much as we transform them. We believe in the boundless energy of our students and their ability to think differently, to see problems through a fresh set of eyes. Our Sisters believed this when they opened Mount Mary in 1913. They were bold - willing to take their ideas into an uncharted marketplace. They left an indelible mark. Their vision has produced multiple generations of curious, compassionate and pioneering women - exceptional women.

Yes, we have come a long way - from humble beginnings in 1965 to this evening’s spectacular event at the Milwaukee Art Museum where we share our Historic Costume Collection as part of the Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair exhibit. We thank our generous sponsors and all of our guests for being a part of this celebration of our university’s pioneering past and innovative future. We are eager to see how and where this next generation of students will put their creativity and considerable talents into action.

Eileen Schwalbach, Ph.D.
President, Mount Mary University
Donna Ricco and Karen Davidson, fashion classmates and 1981 Mount Mary graduates, are successful designers acclaimed for their style, design philosophy and knowledge of their customers.

Karen Davidson has a natural instinct about the Harley-Davidson mystique as great-granddaughter of the company's co-founder and daughter of its iconic Chief Styling Officer Emeritus Willie G. Davidson. At Mount Mary, Karen's transition from Fine Arts to Fashion Design led her to the garment industry and, after graduation, to New York where she worked at a fabric, apparel and accessory company. But, she never strayed far from her love of motorcycles and leather apparel, creating a freelance leather design business. In 1989, Karen joined Harley-Davidson to oversee a new, branded line of apparel and accessories, Harley-Davidson MOTORCLOTHES®. In 1991, the Council of Fashion Designers of America in New York bestowed an industry award to Karen and Harley-Davidson for fashion influence. Today, Karen is the Creative Director for General Merchandise and provides the high-level design direction for apparel and accessory products and is a rider/ambassador for Harley-Davidson.

Donna Ricco has been designing dresses under her own name for over 25 years. After graduation, she moved to New York, making and selling her first dresses. Soon, she launched the Donna Ricco label, which became one of the top 10 recognized names in the dress and suit category in a poll by Women's Wear Daily. Her dressmaking thrived into the 2000's through her Donna Ricco Girl label and an exclusive partnership with Home Shopping Network. In June 2008, Michelle Obama, wife of U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama, wore an off-the-rack Donna Ricco dress while co-hosting the TV program “The View.” This event attracted the attention of the national news media as well as a sudden surge in sales. Her years of experience have made Donna Ricco the “dress expert” whom women trust as a source for on-trend, wearable dresses for many lifestyles.

Pictured above (left to right): Karen Davidson and Donna Ricco
Top: Model wearing Donna Ricco's senior garment in 1981
Bottom: Michelle Obama, center, wearing a Donna Ricco dress with co-hosts of “The View”
Above: Karen Davidson modeling her junior year design in 1980
The Threads of Fashion

1965-2015

The relationships & memories that made history.

1. Fashion icon and TV “Project Runway” celebrity Tim Gunn meets Sr. Aloyse Hessburg at a Mount Mary reception in October, 2014.

2. Sr. Aloyse Hessburg, SSND, joins 1973 Miss Road America in her uniform designed by fashion student Vicky Swoverland.

3. Fashion design students collaborate in the early years.

4. The fashion design lab today.

5. Charles Keibacher advises a fashion design student on her design.
6. Faculty member Elaine Zarse assists a student with draping a garment for the program's first menswear design course.

7. Milwaukee Journal's Women's Editor Aileen Ryan was instrumental in establishing the fashion program in 1965.

8. Fashion designers, left to right, Bonnie Cashin, Ron Amey and Rosalie Macrini attend a celebration marking Mount Mary's establishment of the Aileen Ryan Chair of Fashion Design in 1965.

9. Fashion design students model hats for a 1966 WTMJ-TV taping announcing the fashion program.

10. Student designs hit the runway at the Harley-Davidson Museum for the 2014 Annual Student Designer Fashion Show, CREO.

11. Fashion design student Janelle Judy models her garment inspired by Anna Sui's collection, part of the Historic Costume Collection and the Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair exhibit.
Charles Kleibacher  
Couturier & Collector

Pioneer fashion writer Aileen Ryan wrangled many invitations to New York collections, and ultimately introduced Sr. Mary Aloyse Hessburg, SSND, inaugural chair of Mount Mary’s fashion program, to American fashion designer Charles Kleibacher. He would become one of Mount Mary’s most committed mentors, succeeding Ron Amey in the role of designer critic.

Having worked in Paris under Antonio Del Castillo at the House of Lanvin, Kleibacher admired Sister Aloyse’s well-honed skills and willingness to do whatever it took to build a respected fashion program.

In turn, Sister Aloyse admired Charles Kleibacher’s natural instinct for teaching. Together, they developed what was to become the signature course in the fashion program — couture construction.

Kleibacher’s two-year commitment to the fashion program turned into a lifelong friendship. It was he who encouraged Sr. Aloyse to begin collecting examples of historic garments — especially pieces by 20th Century designers. He transferred the bulk of his own nationally known historic costume collection to Mount Mary, and endowed a design scholarship before he died in 2010. Charles Kleibacher is, and will always remain, the heart and soul of Mount Mary’s Historic Costume Collection.
Mount Mary University's Historic Costume Collection consists of 10,000 designer ready-to-wear garments and accessories. The Collection is foremost a teaching tool for the University's fashion students, but also serves as an important scholarly, artistic and aesthetic resource. It is supported by the Friends of Fashion membership organization.

Our vision for the future is to increase access to this valuable collection and to protect these irreplaceable artifacts for future generations. In the future we shall endeavor to facilitate digital access, leverage the collection throughout our entire university curriculum and to establish a permanent exhibition gallery.

Join us in creating the future at mtmary.edu/hcc.
Internationally acclaimed fashion illustrator, Steven Stipelman, has had a long-standing, collaborative relationship with Mount Mary University. This bond is clearly evident tonight as you preview the series of watercolors he has created for the sole purpose of raising awareness and financial support for Mount Mary University’s Historic Costume Collection. These watercolors portray Ebony Fashion Fair garments in Mount Mary’s holdings, which were selected by curator Camille Morgan to be included as a local supplement to the Milwaukee Art Museum’s Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair exhibit. Steven knows fashion from the inside out. He attended New York’s High School of Music and Art and later the Fashion Institute of Technology where he majored in Fashion Illustration. His first professional job was as staff illustrator for Henri Bendel. Producing artwork for newspaper advertising, he was exposed to the finest designer clothing.

Later, he was hired by Women’s Wear Daily, where he was a fashion artist from 1964-1993. He drew the clothing of the best designers in the world, often from their own sketches, and the New York and Paris runways. By giving Steven a byline, Women’s Wear Daily endorsed him as an artist, and he went on to do portraits of such fashionable women as Babe Paley, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Nancy Reagan.

A masterful tailor and sewer, Steven is a designer in his own right. He has also been teaching throughout his career, visiting schools across the country, including Mount Mary, to share his very special methods of working with acrylic paint and make-up.

With each visit to Milwaukee, Steven would illustrate several of the most spectacular garments in the costume collection, and jokes that Mount Mary holds one of the largest private collections of his paintings in the world. Owning a Steven Stipelman illustration is a rare privilege, as the artist has retained the body of his work.
Leslie Hindman Auctioneers is pleased to present

A collection of Steven Stipelman fashion illustrations

for auction to benefit Mount Mary University’s Historic Costume Collection and Fashion Program

The illustrations, depicting garments from Mount Mary University’s Historic Costume Collection on loan to the Milwaukee Art Museum’s Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair exhibit, will be included in our Luxury Accessories and Vintage Fashion auction on April 22, 2015, but gala guests have a special opportunity to place absentee bids on these one-of-a-kind works of art tonight!

· Each illustration will be sold separately
· A credit card and drivers license must be presented to place a bid
· Bids may be placed in person tonight with LHA representatives, and future bids may be placed via two bidding platforms:
  · LHLive | lesliehindmanauctioneers.com
  · Bidsquare | bidsquare.com
· A Buyer’s Premium of 26% will be added to the hammer price
· Payment will be accepted in the form of cash or a check
· Winners will be notified and invoiced by email following the auction

Contact | Yanet Ramirez
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Special thanks to the Milwaukee Art Museum for hosting the Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair exhibit and to our Friends of Fashion who helped co-sponsor the exhibition.
Mount Mary Alumnae Association congratulates all fashion alumnae on 50 years of excellence!

A special thank you to Donna Ricco, ‘81, and Karen Davidson, ‘81, for being part of this special celebration.
Congratulations!

We Energies congratulates Mount Mary University on 50 years of educating and inspiring fashion students to create innovative and functional fashion solutions.

DIVERSITY
IT’S HOW WE ROLL.

Today’s students are tomorrow’s promise. Let’s equip them for the ride of their life. All they need is a movement in the right direction. Harley-Davidson is proud to support Mount Mary University Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair Celebration

On the road of life, we all ride together.

Congratulations!

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We Energies - Creating brighter futures for the communities in which we do business.
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