



2900 North Menomonee
River Parkway
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53222-4597
www.mtmary.edu

414-258-4810

For More Information:
Susan Shimshak, 414-256-1221
shimshas@mtmary.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mount Mary College Alumnae Recognized for Outstanding Achievements

MILWAUKEE (October 18, 2012) – The Mount Mary College Alumnae Association has named its 2012 Madonna Medal and Tower Award recipients. The Madonna Medal Award is bestowed annually to alumnae who excel in professional achievement, service to the community or service to the College. The Tower Award for Excellence recognizes alumnae who have graduated within the past 15 years and exemplify the College’s core values. This year’s recipients, Ann Angel, Mary Sladky Gramins, Maria Kirschling Guilbert, Marie O’Brien, and Tina Raasch-Prost, were recognized at the College’s 2012 Alumnae Reunion Awards Reception and Dinner, held Saturday, October, 13, 2012 on the College campus.

“We’re honored to recognize these outstanding alumnae,” stated Mount Mary College President, Dr. Eileen Schwalbach. “Their contributions in their communities and professions exemplify our focus on developing women leaders who make a difference,” she added.

The following individuals received the Madonna Award for Professional Excellence:

Ann Angel, Brookfield, WI, graduated from Mount Mary College in 1975 with a B.A. degree in English and Secondary Education. She received her M.A. in Journalism from Marquette University and an M.F.A. in Writing from Vermont College. She currently serves as Associate Professor of English and Director of the M.A. in English program at Mount Mary College.

A writer and contributing editor for many publications, Angel is also the author of 13 books for teens and adults. Her book, *Janis Joplin: Rise up Singing*, received the 2011 Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Award for Excellence in Nonfiction. She received the “Excellence in Teaching” Award from Mount Mary College in 2011.

Mary Sladky Gramins, Deerfield, IL graduated from Mount Mary College in 1962 with a B.A. in History with a minor in English and German. She serves as the Chair of the Theology Department, a teacher, and leader of Campus Ministry at Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest, IL which provides

secondary, college preparatory education for young women. Prior to serving at Woodlands Academy, she was an elementary school religion teacher and ESL tutor. She previously served as the Class of 1962 Representative to the Alumnae Board and as a member of the President's Long Range Planning Committee for Mount Mary College.

Throughout her career, Gramins has continually incorporated social justice and community service into her curriculum. She established a partnership between Woodlands Academy and St. Malachy's, an inner city elementary school in Chicago, to provide students at both schools with opportunities for service and to build understanding across socio-economic lines.

Marie O'Brien, Nashotah, WI graduated from Mount Mary College in 2008 with a B.A. in Business and Professional Communications. She is President and CEO of Enterforce, a workforce management firm that in 2008 was identified in the Top 50 fastest growing companies in North America led by a woman. O'Brien serves as Vice-Chair on Mount Mary's Board of Trustees as well as Chair of Committee on Trustees.

O'Brien has received numerous awards for her professional accomplishments. The Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County named her a 2011 Woman of Distinction and TEMPO Waukesha honored her as a 2011 Woman Business Leader of the Year. She also received the 2011 Special Senatorial Recognition for Business Accomplishments.

About the Tower Award for Excellence Recipients:

Maria Kirschling Guilbert, Greenfield, WI graduated from Mount Mary College in 2002 with a B.A. in Hotel and Restaurant Management and Business Administration. Guilbert received the Tower Award for Excellence for dedicated volunteer service for the Mount Mary College Starving Artists' Show[®]. She served as Chair of the Volunteer Committee from 2001-2009 and Co-Chair of the Show from 2009-2011. Guilbert is also an active community volunteer serving as a tutor for the 65th Street School and the Milwaukee Rescue Mission after school program.

Tina Raasch-Prost, Menomonee Falls, WI graduated from Mount Mary College in 1999 with a B.A. in Interior Design. She received the Tower Award for Excellence for her seven years of volunteer service for the Mount Mary College Starving Artists' Show[®]. In particular, Prost supported publicity efforts that gained visibility for the Show in various media outlets. In addition, Prost has offered her time to the Interior Design department through frequent guest lectures, supporting the College's student chapter of American Society of Interior Designers and providing mentorship to students.

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PHOTOS ATTACHED

Mount Mary College, founded in 1913 by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, was Wisconsin's first four-year, degree-granting Catholic college for women. Located on an 80-acre campus in Milwaukee, the College offers more than 30 undergraduate majors for women, and seven graduate and one doctorate program for women and men. Mount Mary also emphasizes study abroad, service learning, and social justice initiatives. Its nearly 1900 students enjoy small class sizes (average 14) and over 90 percent of full-time students receive financial aid or scholarships. Through classroom instruction and community service, Mount Mary develops women to be leaders in their professions and their communities, serving as role models to inspire achievement in others. Visit Mount Mary at www.mtmary.edu.

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