

MOUNT MARY UNIVERSITY ALUMNAE



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Virtual Awards Celebration

Saturday, April 24
11:30 a.m. CST

You're invited to join us on **Saturday, April 24** for our virtual Awards Celebration. We'll celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of three distinguished alumnae and the highly esteemed recipients of the President's Award of Distinction.

Your ticket purchase provides online event access and a special celebratory kit, which will be mailed to you prior to the event.

[Learn More & Purchase Your Ticket](#)

Congratulations to the 2020 Award Recipients!



TOWER AWARD Lakiesha Q. Russell '10, '13

Lakiesha Russell '10, '13 always knew she wanted to be a therapist. Her very first job at the Boys & Girls Club at age 14, inspired her to work with children and families.

Lakiesha is the visionary and founder of [The Evolving Chair Counseling and Consulting Agency](#). She integrates her professional expertise with a strong faith base to bring mental health awareness and access to the African American community in Milwaukee and across the country.

A sought after speaker who's known as America's #1 Mental Wellness Ambassador, Lakiesha is also the host of a wellness podcast titled "The Evolving Chair Podcast."



MADONNA MEDAL FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE Perie J. Longo '62, PhD, LMFT

As Perie Longo '62 reflects on her life and career, she sees the thread that has woven it all together. From her interest in writing and drama at a young age, to her choice to attend Mount Mary, to her move to California after graduation, she can see how all of these things culminated in a rich life and a long career in teaching and therapy with an emphasis on poetry.

Perie received her master's in speech and communication from ULCA and eventually a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Sierra University in 1991. She is a published author and was named Poet Laureate of Santa Barbara, CA (2007-09). Her career path has helped so many find their voice through poetry and writing.



MADONNA MEDAL FOR SERVICE TO MOUNT MARY Beth Kowall '74

Beth Kowall '74 has been an active member of the Mount Mary Alumnae Association for nearly 40 years! Along with acting as the Co-Class Delegate for her class for 32 years, Beth is a dedicated volunteer and currently serves on the Mount Mary Awards Committee.

In addition to her committee work, Beth also uses her unique experience as both a therapist and a client to volunteer in Mount Mary's occupational therapy classes. She has received numerous awards, most recently the Outstanding Alumnae Volunteer Award from the Alumnae Association in 2018.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD OF DISTINCTION Gary and Judy Jorgensen

Gary and Judy Jorgensen have dedicated their lives to improving Greater Milwaukee for almost 50 years. In his 40 years with VJS Construction Services, Gary's was involved in hundreds of projects around Milwaukee including Mount Mary's Gerhardinger Center and Bloechl Center.

Judy worked at Waukesha Area Technical College with at-risk students for over 25 years and retired in 2001 as Dean of Academic Support. Her community involvement is widespread, and in 2011, she was named a Milwaukee Business Journal Woman of Influence.

Gary and Judy are thrilled to be involved with our new multigenerational living facility, Trinity Woods.



Live. Grow. Be well.

COMING FALL 2021

Spring is just around the corner! What better time to reconnect with MMU colleagues and return to where it all began. Trinity Woods will offer a lifestyle enhanced by unique intergenerational engagement, enriching MMU learning opportunities, dining experiences offering organic produce, and more—all on our beloved and expansive wooded campus.

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Gerhardinger Center | Mount Mary University



A partnership of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Mount Mary University, and Milwaukee Catholic Home. | Equal housing opportunity. All faiths welcome.



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Office of Alumnae Relations
(414) 930-3025 | mmu-alumnae@mtmary.edu

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Starving Artists' Show



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