

2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD HONOREES

Mary Baldwin University alumni are extraordinary and their accomplishments benefit both society and the university. To celebrate the accomplishments of our alumni, recipients of Distinguished Alumni Awards are nominated by Mary Baldwin University alumni and the greater MBU community.

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award was created in 1986 by the Mary Baldwin University Alumni Association and recognizes alumni whose outstanding career performance demonstrates the value of a liberal arts education, serves as an inspiration for current students, and brings distinction to the university and alumni.



Nell Rogers Carvell '63 is a nationally recognized educator and author with over 40 years dedicated to the classroom as a teacher and mentor. She authored numerous preschool curriculums, beginning with the nationally recognized LEAP Language Enrichment Activities Program, Learning by Leaps and Bounds in 1994. Nell has served on numerous boards including Board of Directors President for the Academic Language Therapy Association, the International Dyslexia Association and the Presbyterian Communities and Services Foundation. Nell has received numerous accolades during her career including the “Excellence in Education Award” from the International Dyslexia Society-Dallas Branch and the “Children’s Champion Award” of Dallas for Children. She has served as a Sunday School teacher for over 35 years in addition to countless examples of church service. Nell humbly captures her consummate dedication to serving others: “... I have been able to use my gifts to teach and model teaching to adults and children ... I have been able to bring hope to parents and teachers who often felt hopeless; with my husband, we have been able to center our lives in a faith-based marriage; and at this age I still have energy and love to share with others.”

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY OF FAITH AWARD

This award was created in 1986 by the MBU Alumni Association and honors alumni who have provided distinguished service to their faith and spiritual communities, recognizing the close and important relationship that has existed between the university and the Presbyterian Church since the university’s founding.



Beverly Burke McCaskill '73 has devoted her life to service — to her family, her community, her church, and eventually to missions and social work abroad. In 2005, Beverly and her husband relocated to Albania where they lived and served as missionaries for the next 10 years. They were struck by the overwhelming orphan population and the resulting risk of human trafficking of young orphan girls. Therefore, Beverly created the Eagle’s Wings Foundation in 2008 with the purpose of mentoring and empowering young, vulnerable Albanian women with strategies to navigate the obstacles of their communities. The vision of the organization is to provide family-style homes which teach and train girls, enabling them to live on their own in safe, sustainable ways. Beverly partnered closely with Albanian community members to develop a transitional home for at-risk women and numerous support programs to mentor young Albanian women. Beverly was influential in hiring and training staff,

developing funding, and implementing the teaching family model. She served on the board of trustees for seven years and is still active today in fundraising and support. Beverly and her husband now reside stateside where she continues to minister overseas through the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and other mission agencies, training new missionaries and mentoring others in their field of service.

EMILY VANCE PANCAKE SMITH MEDALLION

Named in honor of distinguished Mary Baldwin alum Emily Vance Pancake Smith 1906, this award was created by the Mary Baldwin Board of Trustees in 1964 to recognize alumni who have made outstanding contributions to the college, their churches, communities, and beyond.



Clair Carter Bell '76 began her career in the Mary Baldwin Admissions Office right after graduation as a “roadrunner” and in 1979 became the director of Admissions and Financial Aid Offices at the young age of 24 appointed by President Virginia Lester. She served as director until 1986 and oversaw the recruitment of hundreds of students. Clair was instrumental in the admissions infrastructure of the PEG and ADP programs. Clair transitioned careers and became the manager of the Staunton Plaza and oversaw its conversion from a strip mall to an enclosed mall, and she was then appointed as executive director of the Staunton Augusta Art Center. Clair took a leave from the workforce when her son Thomas was born in 1989. Working with dedication across the community, she has volunteered her time and talents for many years

as a substitute teacher for the Staunton City Public School system. Clair is active with Trinity Episcopal Church and is very involved with the Augusta Garden Club, volunteering countless hours orienting new members. Clair created and facilitated the Augusta Garden Club 175th Anniversary project to plant 175 tulip bulbs on the MBU campus. She also led the successful 175th Anniversary History Exhibit at the Smith Art Center, coordinating with both Mary Baldwin and the Augusta Historical Society. She has been actively involved with class Reunions as well as the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Alumni Chapter. Clair’s dedication and devotion to her alma mater shines through her countless areas of service over the years.

EMILY WIRSING KELLY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Named in honor of Emily Wirsing Kelly '63, this award was created in 1986 by the Mary Baldwin University Alumni Association and honors alumni who have demonstrated outstanding service and excellence in leadership on behalf of Mary Baldwin University.



Anne Holland '88 has dedicated her professional career to serving the Mary Baldwin alumni community, and this year she celebrates her 29th year at Mary Baldwin. Anne exemplifies outstanding service and excellence in leadership on behalf of Mary Baldwin. During the past three decades, Anne has faithfully worked to plan and facilitate countless alumni engagement opportunities. She began her career at the university in the Annual Fund Office and transitioned to the Alumni Office. She has been a driving force in the creation and implementation of many of the alumni community’s most treasured events and traditions from Apple Day festivities to Homecoming. One of the many hallmarks of her alumni engagement career is the creation of the prestigious Grafton Society. Anne worked closely with Nancy Carey, Ethel Smeak, Dr. Grafton, and Mrs. Grafton in the creation of this tradition

celebrating alumni that reach their 50-year Reunion. She has built life-long relationships within the Mary Baldwin alumni community that are truly a reflection of her exceptional passion and dedication to continuing the Mary Baldwin experience for others. She is a wealth of institutional knowledge and an invaluable asset to the university and alumni community. Anne’s tireless dedication to the alumni community is evident when she shared: “It has been an honor and a privilege to work at Mary Baldwin ... and to meet so many wonderful life-long friends. This is a treasure that I will remember forever.”

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AWARD

This award was created in 1986 by the Mary Baldwin University Alumni Association and recognizes alumni who provide distinguished and outstanding volunteer service to their communities and bring honor to their alma mater through their activities.



Michelle Trovato Sandy '16 established a refugee camp in Greece for Samaritan's Purse, a nondenominational evangelical organization that provides aid to over 100 countries around the world. Her first deployment was as a scout to assess the needs of the refugees in the Idomeni and Lesvos areas. Her second deployment was to the small island of Leros, where she was responsible for creating a refugee camp. Michelle has been involved in community service since the age of 12 when she became the youngest person at the time to walk around the island of Oahu to raise money for the March of Dimes. While a student she was very involved locally with the Junior Women's Club and Church Downtown. She has served internationally in over seven countries besides her time in Greece which occurred during her senior year at Mary Baldwin. She currently is the owner and operator of Farmhouse Kitchen & Wares in downtown Staunton and regularly donates her time and talents back to the MBU community.