

DR. MARI ANN CALLAIS, AB,

Receives FCA Distinguished Varner Award

BY LESLIE ERVIN TRAHANT, ALPHA BETA



The Fraternity Communications Association presents annually the Evin C. Varner Award to someone who, over a period of years with notable efforts and results, has communicated the meaning of "fraternity" through working for his or her Greek organization. He/she should also have demonstrated sincere and credible leadership and service to the Greek-letter system.

This award was recently presented to Mari Ann Callais, Ph.D. Mari Ann, a 1986 initiate of Theta Phi Alpha's Alpha Beta Chapter at Loyola University in New Orleans, Louisiana, served as National President of Theta Phi Alpha from 2002 to 2008.

EXTRAORDINARY FRATERNAL SERVICES

In addition to her national service to Theta Phi Alpha, where she has served as National Programming Director, Conference Director, NPC Delegate, National President, and a member of the Board of Trustees, it would be nearly impossible to identify Greek organizations that have not benefitted or been touched by Mari Ann. She has served the Greek community in

the Greek community, while sharing her talents with individuals, chapters, campuses, and organizations. She also often donates her time to enable groups to benefit from her presentations. She has donated programs to SEPC and other organizations, as well as two programs to Theta Phi Alpha to help us celebrate our Centennial.

COMMUNICATION OF THE MEANING OF FRATERNITY

Mari Ann is a powerful, effective, and unique force in the Greek world and has affected various aspects of Greek life in ways that no one else has managed to do. Many people define their idea of *Fraternity* by saying *Dr. MAC*.

Past National President, Kathy Gaver, **ΑΠ**, writes, "Mari Ann dedicates herself 100% to whatever responsibility she takes on. She strives for excellence and is a precious asset to Theta Phi Alpha and to the world of sororities and fraternities. Mari Ann touches everyone whose path she crosses. She is well respected by her Theta Phi Alpha sisters and is an inspiration to us all. She has been a great mentor to me."

"To put this in simple terms, Mari Ann believes in this thing called sorority and fraternity. She continues to grow, evolve, and impact our profession. Mari Ann motivates all of us to respect our Founders and these ideals and principles that our world desperately needs. She sings about 'fraternity,' she consults on it, but, most importantly, she lives it."

- LORI HART, PH.D. // CAMPUSPEAK, INC. // ΠΙΚΑΠΠΑ ΦΙ, DIRECTOR OF ALCOHOL EDUCATION

a variety of ways, including as a Greek Advisor, Faculty Member, National Officer, Greek Housing Specialist, CAMPUSPEAK Presenter, NPC Delegate, National President, and, most recently, Director of Development for Delta Delta Delta's The Center for Living, Learning, and Leading. Very few individuals have amassed the Greek life resumé that Mari Ann has.

PEER RESPECT

The respect that the Greek community has for Mari Ann is evident in her busy schedule of presentations at inter/national conventions, conferences, and gatherings, as well as her role at regional NPC/NIC events. At activities where the "who's who" of the Greek community can choose whomever they wish to represent Greek life and to present to their membership, time and time again, they choose Mari Ann.

SPIRIT OF ASSISTANCE AND KINDNESS

Mari Ann believes in the good that exists in the fraternal world and has spent her entire professional life advocating for members to *Live Your Ritual* and be true to the founding values of each of our organizations. She takes the time to listen and address issues in

Bonnie Wunsch, Executive Director of Alpha Epsilon Phi, agrees, "With Mari Ann in our corner, we can be sure the messages we want delivered to our collegians and alumnae, as well as administrators, is getting out! Her leadership and dedication to the Greek movement is exemplary, and we are so fortunate she has chosen to share herself with more than her sisters in Theta Phi Alpha."

For more information on the Evin C. Varner Award, visit:
[HTTP://GOO.GL/0088B](http://GOO.GL/0088B)

Leslie Ervin Trahant, AB, is the Director of Fundraising, 35 and Over, for the Theta Phi Alpha Foundation, and is a member of the New Orleans Area Alumnae Association.

RIGHT: Mari Ann delivering the Centennial Banquet Keynote in Ann Arbor, Mich., at the 49th National Convention.

