

MMI Founder-President Honored by College Group

Music Medicine Institute founder and president Elizabeth Jacobi, PhD, RMT, FAMI, has been honored with the 2017 Saint Mother Theodore Guerin Award by the Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College National Alumni Association.



The award, given annually and named for the foundress of the Indiana school, was first presented in 1966. It recognizes women “who use their gifts to excel at what they do, reflecting God’s love and abundant grace in the world, and who possess similar purpose, devotion, community vitality, and leadership as that exhibited by Saint Mother Theodore Guerin.”

“I am deeply grateful for this wonderful honor,” Dr. Jacobi, a 1963 graduate of the college, said in accepting the award at a June 17 reunion banquet. “Thank you to the alumni association, the Sisters of Providence, faculty, staff, students, and all my wonderful classmates.”

“Much like Saint Mother Theodore toiled with the establishment of the Sisters in Indiana and the Saint Mary-of-the-Woods Academy, Elizabeth has worked tirelessly, bringing enthusiasm, knowledge, and business acumen to support her vision while establishing the non-profit Music Medicine Institute,” said the association during the award presentation.

Dr. Jacobi holds a music education and voice performance degree from SMWC and received a Master’s of Music and Voice Performance from Rosary College in Florence, Italy, a Music Therapy Certification from Montclair State University, and did work in guided imagery and music from Temple University.



Her clinical training in behavioral medicine was done at Harvard Medical School, and she earned a doctorate in Clinical Psychology at The Union Institute in Cincinnati.

Early in her career she performed professionally on opera stages in Europe, was a Cultural Delegate to the People’s Republic of China, taught music in the New York City schools, and served as the Director of Project Head Start in New York. In addition, she is a highly regarded consultant and international lecturer, and a founder or director of music therapy programs at both the university and hospital levels.



“During her career, which has been so impressive and varied, Elizabeth has served a number of communities in addition to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College,” noted the alumni association. “She was instrumental in the establishment of the Master of Arts in Music Therapy at the College, and that program continues to be a pillar of excellence for SMWC. Elizabeth is nationally recognized as an outstanding music educator, but most importantly she recognizes her talent as a vehicle to serve those in need.”

For more information on Saint Mother Theodore Guerin (1798-1856, canonized October 15, 2006) and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, visit smwc.edu.