



A Night to Remember

The 10th Anniversary Women of Spirit® Gala

by
Andrew Wilson

It was an evening of spirit and a celebration of women. The evening and place were so divine and inspirational, it was fitting one of the honorees came from Angels' Place.

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THIS YEAR'S WOMEN OF SPIRIT® GALA – celebrating its 10th anniversary – recognized 10 notable women, among them a holocaust survivor and a teacher; a judge and a newspaper editor; a nurse and an entrepreneur. But despite all the differences in their lives' journeys there was a common commitment to mentoring others and to the role that mentors have played in their lives.

“The Mercy nuns who run Carlow also ran a big part of my youth in grade school and high school,” recalled Madelyn Ross, the managing editor of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and a 2004 Women of Spirit® honoree. “They were intellectually tough, emotionally gentle, pious, wickedly funny, and courageous – you try playing field hockey in one of those old-style habits. They were – and still are – exquisite role models and mostly unsung heroes.”

The next generation of honorees were ably represented by the Women of Spirit® scholars, whose presence at Carlow University was made possible by the funds raised by this gala. Sarah Gable, a junior social work major and a Rose Marie Beard Woman of Spirit® Honors Scholar, spoke movingly of what the opportunities she has received have meant to her.

“I was fortunate to have an institution like Carlow University and gracious benefactors like Mr. Eugene Beard and Sister Grace Ann (Geibel) who were willing to take a chance on me,” said Sarah, who studied at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa during the spring term, 2004. “As a result of all these support systems, I am able to attend this prestigious women-centered university and receive a quality education. Every day I interact with faculty and staff who encourage me to rise to my potential and take advantage of every opportunity...No matter where I go, whether it be Africa, China, or back home to Perry County (Ohio), my experiences and the social work degree that I am pursuing will provide me the means to enrich the lives of those in my community. Ladies and gentlemen, this is what it means to me to be a Woman of Spirit in action.” ❁



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