

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

## ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2022

PRESENTED TO



*Maria Isabel G. Ongpin MA '62*

**MARIA ISABEL G. ONGPIN, GRADUATE PROGRAMS CLASS OF 1962,**

the Alumnae Association is pleased to present you with the Achievement Award. This award is presented to alums whose accomplishments and service to society exemplify the values and virtues set forth by the College.

Maria, your lifelong dedication to improving Filipino culture, politics and health has led to significant changes in your homeland.

After receiving your master's degree in English from Mount Holyoke you returned to the Philippines, where you built a successful career as a teacher, business expert, journalist and political activist. In 1980 you founded the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation to build sustainable rural communities in the Philippines, starting in locations that were destroyed by gold mining or earthquakes. By 1997 the foundation had gained enough funding and international recognition to become an independent non-governmental organization and now focuses on addressing the challenges of climate change in island communities and providing microloans for women to rebuild farms.

To help women-owned small businesses selling textiles and traditional clothing made from organic Filipino cotton, you created HABI: The Philippine Textile Council. In 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic made the world especially difficult for artists, you helped to bring their work online, expanding their visibility. As a former journalist, you understand the potential dangers journalists face in exposing corporate and government misdeeds, which led you to establish the Jaime Velez Ongpin Awards, the Filipino equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize. In 2015 you were selected as one of the eight most significant Filipinas in the twenty-first century for serving your nation and empowering the women of the Philippines.

Maria, for your outstanding accomplishments, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you with the Achievement Award on this, your sixtieth, reunion.

*Ellen Hyde Pace*

ELLEN HYDE PACE '81  
PRESIDENT  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

*Nancy B. Perez*

NANCY BELLOWS PEREZ '76  
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE