Rally Your Class and Make an Impact: 2027 Ave Maria University Alumni Award Nominations Open Through Nov. 11

Campus Update

October 31, 2026

Rally Your Class and Make an Impact: 2027 Ave Maria University Alumni Award Nominations Open Oct. 23rd

Ave Maria University is inviting alumni, families, and friends to help celebrate the remarkable lives and accomplishments of its graduates. Nominations are now open for the 2027 Alumni Awards, and the University is counting on its alumni community to help identify the individuals who continue to live out the AMU mission through their faith, professional accomplishments, dedication to the University, and service to others.

Nominations will remain open through November. Whether you know an alumnus who has made a difference in their profession, dedicated years of service to their community, remained deeply involved with the University, or helped shape the early foundation of AMU, we want to hear their story!

Four Awards, Four Ways to Celebrate Our Alumni

The 2027 Alumni Awards feature four categories recognizing the many ways Ave Maria graduates carry the University's mission into the world.

Pioneer Award – Michigan Campus Class of 2005

This award recognizes the alumni who helped lay the foundation for Ave Maria University during its earliest years in Michigan. These pioneers demonstrated courage, tenacity, and a willingness to embrace the University's mission and vision when it was just beginning. Their commitment helped shape the community and traditions that continue to define AMU today. This award honors those who not only helped build the University but continue to exemplify its mission.

Alumni Dedication to the University Award

This award recognizes alumni who have made the mission of Ave Maria University part of their everyday lives. Whether through giving their time, sharing their talents, providing financial support, mentoring students, serving on the Alumni Board of Directors, or simply staying connected and involved, these graduates demonstrate a lasting commitment to the University

and its community.

Ambassador Michael Novak Excellence in Career Award

Named in honor of Ambassador Michael Novak, this award celebrates alumni who have distinguished themselves through their professional accomplishments. Nominees should demonstrate significant career milestones, a passion for their chosen profession, and meaningful contributions to their field. We want to recognize graduates whose professional journeys reflect the intellectual formation, work ethic, and pursuit of excellence fostered at Ave Maria University.

Jon Scharfenberger Service to the Community Award

Named in memory of beloved alumnus Jon Scharfenberger, Class of 2011, this award honors his legacy of passionate faith, pro-life advocacy, and service to others. It recognizes alumni who have made a meaningful difference in their communities through service, leadership, pro-life work, or other efforts that reflect a deep commitment to the dignity of every human person and the love of Christ.

Which Class Will You Help Celebrate?

This year's nomination campaign invites the AMU community to recognize alumni from the following class years:

2002 | 2007 | 2012 | 2017 | 2022

Think about the classmates whose stories deserve to be shared. If you know someone from one of these classes who is making a difference, take a few minutes to nominate them!

Rally Your Class: The Alumni Website Class Competition

There is another reason to encourage your classmates to reconnect with AMU!

The class with the greatest percentage of alumni who claim their profiles on the AMU Alumni Website will win FREE tickets to the 2027 Alumni Reunion for the entire class! The reunion will take place March 19–20, 2027.

It is easy to participate. Simply visit https://alumni.avemaria.edu, log in, and claim your profile. Then challenge your classmates to do the same. The winning class will be determined by the percentage of its alumni who have claimed their profiles, so every profile counts!

How to Nominate

Submitting a nomination is easy! Simply log in to the AMU Alumni Website at Alumni.AveMaria.edu. The 2027 Alumni Awards nomination form will appear in a pop-up survey when you log in.

Helpful tip: Keep the alumni website open in another browser tab while completing the nomination form. This will allow you to browse the alumni directory if you need help remembering who graduated in a particular class year.

The University also encourages alumni to share the nomination announcement on LinkedIn and other social media platforms and to personally reach out to classmates to encourage participation. A personal invitation can make all the difference in helping a deserving alumnus receive recognition.

Ave Maria University has been blessed with alumni who are making a difference in the Church, their professions, their families, and communities around the world. Their stories deserve to be told and celebrated. Help us recognize them, reconnect our alumni family, and show just how much of an impact an AMU education continues to make.

Claim your profile. Nominate an alum. Challenge your classmates.

Read online for photos and videos:

https://alumni.avemaria.edu/news/rally-your-class-and-make-an-impact-2027-ave-maria-university-alumni-award-nominations-open-through-nov-11