



NMH Reunion

2023 Alumni Association Awards

Alumni Citation: Charles Daniel Kellogg '48

Charles “Charlie” Kellogg has been his class reunion chair since his 20th reunion and class secretary since the 1980s, for a total of 55 years of double-duty service to his classmates. He graduated in 1948 from Mount Hermon, where he spent two years and enjoyed playing soccer.

He fondly remembers his teachers, including a math teacher who led students through the textbook twice to ensure full understanding of the material; English teacher TJ Donovan, who was tough but taught him how to write; and Jud Stent, who taught him Introduction to the Bible. He also fondly remembers the school’s work program, which emphasized the importance of a strong work ethic. Charlie worked on the farm, taking care of animals, picking apples, and cutting lumber. He truly appreciates the school’s religious education and the principles of D.L. Moody, which helped him develop his Christian faith.

After Mount Hermon, Charles attended the University of Bridgeport, graduating in 1953 with a degree in business marketing. During college, he was employed by Underwood Typewriter, earning 75 cents an hour. He spent most of his professional life in the manufacturing business, in sales and management, and eventually started his own screw-machine business. Charlie’s hobby is inventing — he is currently developing a device to make it easier to put on socks.

As he celebrates his 75th reunion this year, Charlie says he enjoys the relationships he has developed over the years attending reunions and encourages his classmates to join him. He is dedicated to reaching out to his classmates and maintaining his connection to the school.

Alumni Citation: Katrinka Crow Greger '58

Katrinka Crow Greger has had a long relationship with NMH since graduating from the Northfield School for Girls. Her grandmother attended the Northfield Summer Conferences for many years. When Katrinka considered attending Northfield, her grandmother told her, “You will love it!” And she did.

Katrinka, who sang in the choir at school, has regularly returned to campus for Sacred Concert and sang in the Alumni Choir. “The NMH community experiences solidified my family values and laid a foundation for my adult life,” she says. “Most of all, my spiritual experience during my years at Northfield solidified my faith and love of the school.”

After Northfield, Katrinka attended Connecticut College. She married and moved to Germany for three years before moving back to the states and having four children. At age 40, she went to nursing school and graduated summa cum laude with a certification in rehabilitation nursing. She says her NMH education contributed to her success after returning to school.

Katrinka has served NMH as director of alumni and parent programs and as a phonathon and admission volunteer. Today, she serves as gift committee chair and reunion committee chair for her class. She also helped set up the 1958 Memorial Scholarship Fund, established for her class’s 50th reunion to

strengthen and uphold their commitment to the scholarship traditions of the school. These activities have enabled Katrinka to be a class connector and liaison with the school.

Alumni Citation: Stephen A. Cone '68

Steve Cone chose Mount Hermon because of the diversity of students and work experiences that awaited him. His volunteerism for NMH includes a term on the Board of Trustees from 1993-96 and consistent service on the class of 1968's reunion and gift committees.

Steve's love of writing and literature was nurtured by two years of classes with Thomas Donovan. He says he was also inspired by Bible teacher Jud Stent and by Edmund Alexander, his varsity tennis coach, whose influences still impact him five decades later.

In 1972, Steve founded Epsilon, a database marketing company, where he eventually became chair. In 15 years, the company grew to represent Apple, FEDEX, Pan American, and United Airlines and many notable not-for-profit organizations like Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the San Diego Zoo, and the Boston Symphony. His extensive executive experience with both for-profit and nonprofits organizations led him to author three books on marketing, with an emphasis on how charities can be more effective in their philanthropy efforts.

In 2019, Steve became the chief of communications, marketing, and philanthropy for Capital Caring Health, one of the oldest hospice nonprofits in the nation. He describes hospice care as "not about the end of life but about a better life." He believes his Mount Hermon teachers would approve of his work in transformative hospice care, bringing light into the darkness.

Alumni Citation: Jennifer Kent '88

Jennifer Kent found refuge, community, and a nurturing environment during her two years at NMH. She credits the school with making her the person she is today. Arriving on campus at a challenging time in her life, Jennie found the perfect balance of compassionate adults and caring friends. She is grateful to her teachers for giving her the care and guidance that she needed and to her friends, who were loud and outspoken but always there to offer true support long after their time on campus.

Jennie credits John Adams for challenging her to meet her potential. In his class, Jennie learned to channel her defiant energy into her studies. Gerry Davis taught her that voting is a privilege to be exercised, and Dick Peller showed her the finer points of scoring a baseball game and has remained a warm, friendly face for 35 years.

The friendships Jennie formed at NMH have lasted a lifetime. Her closest friends are the ones she made here. Splitting time between the U.S. and Colombia, Jennie still manages to keep up with her friends and classmates in both countries.

Jennie hopes future generations will find the same support and growth that she found at NMH. She has volunteered for the admission office, representing the school in Colombia by hosting events and interviewing prospective students. She has been on the Gift Committee since 2014 and on the Reunion

Committee since 2008, working with her classmates to keep the love and community she found 25 years ago alive and well.

Alumni Citation: Stuart Henry Paap '93

NMH taught Stuart Paap the value of having open, honest, and forthright conversations with his classmates, teachers, faculty, and staff. It also taught him the value of hard work, multicultural experiences, being master of his own fate, and making a positive impact on the world.

Stuart had many influences at NMH. Mec Peller was a wonderful source of possibility and openness towards helping him accomplish goals. David Dowdy was a welcoming figure in exploring deep topics, and countless others were always open to having mature, high-level conversations.

Stuart currently supports NMH by serving on his class Reunion Committee and as an Area Club volunteer. Previously, he served on the Alumni Council's Strategic Advisory Committee for eight years, six of them as chair. Stuart is a donor because he believes in the value that NMH provides to students and in what graduates can offer the world. He trusts NMH to steward his donations to the most impactful areas.

Stuart is the founder and owner of Influence DNA, a company that focuses on communication, training, and skill development for biotech. He also volunteers at Capital Network as a mentor to entrepreneurs. Stuart's career has been motivated by helping entrepreneurs, innovators, and change-makers share their voices, get their ideas heard, and help make an impact on the world. It is easy to see that his NMH experience profoundly influenced his professional life.

Alumni Citation: Allison M. Boyd '03

Allison Boyd grew up four miles from the Mount Hermon campus and believes her life would have taken a different trajectory had she not attended NMH. The decision to enroll came at a time when her life could have gone in any number of directions. NMH set her on a path that helped her to become a person she is proud of. That's why she continues to support the school.

A four-year student at NMH, Allison returned to work as a summer teaching intern after graduating from Marist College and subsequently worked in the NMH International Education Office for one year.

Her experience at NMH shaped how she approaches everyday interactions with people she meets. It gave her the foundation to be able to see people for who they are, acknowledge their humanity, and find a common thread regardless of circumstances. Allison says her C5 dorm parent, Margaret van Baaren, was an excellent role model for living with empathy and meeting people where they are. She also remembers Dance Program Director Gretel Schatz for teaching her the importance of listening to what your inner voice tells you to do. Working with someone who is so attuned to her internal voice was inspiring to Allison.

An active NMH supporter, Allison served as reunion chair in 2008 and as gifts committee chair in 2011. She has been a member of the Alumni Council's Reunion Advisory Committee since 2020.

Young Alumni Award: Rachel Seward Francklyn '13

Rachel Seward Francklyn has a special place in her heart for NMH and credits the school for broadening her worldview and exposing her to experiences she would not have had otherwise. She attributes much of her personal and professional growth to two influential NMH teachers, David Dowdy and David Rollins. Both teachers challenged her to push beyond her perceived limits and reach for greater understanding. Rachel's gratitude for their mentorship and guidance is immeasurable.

After graduating from NMH, Rachel attended the University of Vermont with plans to become a history professor. However, a summer internship with the Department of Justice sparked a new passion, leading Rachel to pursue a Juris Doctorate at Georgetown University Law Center. Rachel continues to embrace the NMH motto of "grow where you're planted" and regularly steps out of her comfort zone to embrace new opportunities and experiences.

Rachel's commitment to giving back to NMH has been extensive. She worked as a student volunteer for the Reunion Committee in 2017, aided in the 2018 reunion planning, served as an alumna admission interviewer, and has held the position of class secretary since 2018. Most recently, she joined the Alumni Council, serving as a dedicated member of the Reunion Advisory Committee. For Rachel, volunteering for NMH is a way to remain connected to the community she loves and to be part of something greater than herself.

The NMH Alumni Association is honored to recognize Rachel's exceptional dedication and commitment to the school with the Young Alumni Award. Her outstanding volunteer work in such a short span of time is a testament to her deep appreciation for NMH and her unwavering commitment to giving back.

Josie Rigby Spirit Award: David W. Torrey '73

David Torrey first came to NHM when he came home from the hospital the day he was born. That event even got some ink in the May 28, 1955, issue of *The Hermonite*. David grew up on the Mount Hermon campus, and after his family moved to Connecticut, he came "home" again two years later in 1969, joining the class of 1973.

These ties help explain David's particular 50-year relationship to his class and the school. Whether it was his assistance in the creation of the (un)official class motto, "Illegitimi non carborundum," and accompanying banner, or his ongoing relationship with the class of '73's band *Keep on Truckin'*, David has been a tireless worker for his class every reunion. He is a reunion co-chair and served on the Alumni Council for many years.

But it's a certain *je ne sais quoi* beyond all of this involvement that makes David a perfect choice for the Josie Rigby Spirit Award. Ask him and he'll tell you that his core focus is on sharing and fostering that

sense of togetherness that arises immediately on reunion weekend. Those feelings are a direct reflection of the cohesion that David remembers from his dormitory groups, from a term abroad in France in the fall of 1972, and from post-NMH adventures including everything from the Cambridge Revels to leading bird walks with alumni.

A drummer, a mummer, and a one-man band: David has quite literally been all of these, bringing people together in a spirit of fun and camaraderie. But it is the first of these three that is at the heart of all of David's efforts. If he grabbed some headlines in 1955, since then, his signature has been sitting in the back with a drum kit, real or metaphorical, setting a beat that's fun and funky. Thanks for all you do, and keep on truckin', David.

Community Service Award: Thomas Owen Schmidt '73

NMH taught Tom Schmidt that community service is a noble and beautiful way to uplift others. His long life of service started at NMH, where he tutored elementary school kids in Greenfield and volunteered with the 20-mile Walk for Riverview in Springfield. NMH showed Tom a larger and more diverse world than the rural area where he grew up. His desire to try new things and seek new paths was born at NMH, where teachers and staff always went above and beyond to serve students and the school. Tom adopted this philosophy in his approach to community service.

Since graduating from NMH, Tom has dedicated himself to serving his hometown of Twinsburg, Ohio, as a town trustee for over 25 years. Prior to being elected as trustee, Tom was known in the community for his volunteer work at the local community center and his service as a member of the Twinsburg Township Board of Zoning Appeals. As trustee, Tom is responsible for a wide range of matters, including health and safety issues, policing, fire contracts, trash pickup, maintenance of local parks and roads, and any other needs that arise in the community.

Tom has learned that people don't care about where you went to college, how many awards you've won, or how many cars you have when it comes to serving in public office. What matters most to the people he serves is that they feel he cares about them, which he demonstrates through his actions.

Tom makes it a priority to give back to NMH in every way he can and has served as a reunion planner and fundraiser since 1998. He feels a deep sense of gratitude for the outstanding education he received here, for the large group of classmates he loves and admires, and for the faculty and staff who nurtured him when he was far from home and needed support.

Distinguished Service Award: Michael A. Hardy '73

They say the only constant is change, and in Michael Hardy's career, he has leveraged his education and expertise to fight for difficult change. Since his NMH graduation 50 years ago, Michael has built a career focused on advancing a modern civil rights agenda, with his primary areas of practice including civil rights litigation, criminal defense litigation, not-for-profit organizations, and employment matters.

It was encouragement from his aunt and mother that led Michael to NMH. He says when he first visited the school from Brooklyn, he was inspired from the moment he got off the bus. After NMH, he attended Carleton College, graduating in 1977, and earned his JD from New York University in 1988.

Michael is a founding member of the National Action Network (NAN), the civil rights organization led by the Rev. Al Sharpton. He has been at the forefront of key civil rights and police misconduct cases, including the cases of Eric Garner, Abner Louima, Amadou Diallo, Ousmane Zongo, and many others. As NAN's executive vice president and general counsel, he oversees its day-to-day legal work and outreach efforts, including legal clinics for community members, as well as a monthly "Legal Night" show, which he hosts and which is broadcast across radio, TV, print, and social media.

In 2014, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo appointed Michael to the Commission on Youth, Public Safety, and Justice, where he worked on raising the age of criminal liability in New York State from 16 to 18 years old. He also participated in the U.S. Department of Justice's creation of the Clemency Project, an effort to release low-level drug offenders sentenced to life or near-life prison sentences under mandatory sentencing guidelines.

NMH's teachings of the head, hand, and heart fostered an environment for Michael to step into his own and learn, study, and mature. He doesn't believe he would have his ability, training, and outlook on life without having been a student here. His career has been driven by his desire to work to make this country a more perfect union.

Morrow Award: Dennis Kennedy P'00, '03, '05

A beloved English teacher, Dennis Kennedy cherishes the opportunity NMH gave him to "read worthy texts with bright young minds."

Students he taught during his 35 years at NMH reciprocate the sentiment: "In class we discussed poetry and literature, but we were discussing life," one former student says. "DK is an incredible source of wisdom. He helped shape our sense of beauty in the world, our sense of humor, of perspective, of self."

"He connected us to the foundational values of NMH, reminding us that NMH was different because, whoever you were when you got here, you were better when you left," another student remembers. "NMH is about finding your own unique gifts and amplifying them, not about cookie-cutting anyone into a single mold of the perfect student."

A third student adds, "He saw in me what I hoped someone could see in me. At age 17, that's a big deal. He gave me the confidence to enter the world unafraid and to do it in style."

Dennis lent his gifts to the school in a myriad of ways. He coached both junior varsity basketball and, for a decade, the debate team, including several teams who qualified for World Finals in Great Britain. He led a course called Irish Studies, which became part of the senior seminar and included three weeks in Ireland. Dennis remembers these trips fondly and was proud of how the NMH students rose to the occasion, with high engagement and curiosity. His three children graduated from NMH: Kate in 2000, Denny in '03, and Sean in '05.

Known for his dry wit, sense of mischief, and unexpected punchlines, Dennis shared countless lesson-bearing vignettes that have stuck in the minds of students and colleagues for decades. In his quiet way, he has left a beautiful mark on all who had the privilege to learn from him.

The NMH Alumni Association is honored to bestow the Morrow Award, the highest honor given to a non-alumni member of the NMH community, to Dennis for his profound and positive impact on our school.

Lamplighter Award: Caroline N. Niederman '78

Giving back was a strong family value for Carrie Niederman, so it is no surprise that she has long served NMH. She has been a class secretary since 1998, served on the Alumni Council from 2008 to 2017 (including six years as president), and recently termed out after completing ten years as a trustee.

Carrie cannot remember how she learned of NMH, but it turned out to be a life-changing experience. She spent two years at NMH, where she lived in Marquand and played soccer, basketball, and tennis. Her success on the athletic field led to her induction in the NMH Athletics Hall of Fame. Carrie credits NMH with providing the right environment for her to gain much-needed academic confidence. A savvy NMH guidance counselor also helped Carrie navigate her “terrible” SAT scores and get into Bowdoin College by applying early decision, a novel thing to do back in 1977.

Carrie feels fortunate to have crossed paths with Nancy “Coach” Stiller during her time at NMH. Being a member of “Stiller’s Killers” reinforced important life lessons about teamwork, setting Carrie up to succeed on the soccer field in college and to lead the Alumni Council team.

As Alumni Council president, Carrie energized the organization and inspired many with her dedication and leadership skills. Her tenure resulted in a more structured, effective, collaborative working body. Carrie is credited with strengthening the Alumni Council’s engagement with the Board of Trustees, allowing NMH to benefit from collaboration between its two largest volunteer bodies.

For her commitment and leadership on behalf of the school and alumni/ae, we are excited to present her with the school’s greatest honor, the Lamplighter Award.