

Alumni Citation

Awarded to an alumnus or alumna for exceptional volunteer service to, and support of, Northfield Mount Hermon.

Danielle (Henry) Beale '02 is an active alumni volunteer, serving as a class secretary, the Class of 2002's gift chair, and a reunion volunteer.

As a four-year student, Danielle took full advantage of the wide variety of opportunities NMH offered. "There isn't a single facet of my life that hasn't been shaped by my experience at NMH," she says. Those formative years sparked her curiosity, a love of continuous learning, and a desire to give back, she adds.

After graduating from NMH, Danielle received her bachelor's at UMass Amherst and her master's at Baruch College. She now works at the Nantucket New School as director of administrative and strategic affairs.

Danielle points to her years at NMH as a pivotal time, helping her define herself and her future endeavors. "My life changed the moment I set foot on the NMH campus," she says. "The four years I spent there were difficult and challenging." She appreciates the encouragement of her classmates and teachers, such as English teacher Audrey Sheats, who inspired her to excel in writing and classic literature, as well as the confidence she developed in her own abilities. Her experience at NMH led to her decision to work in independent schools, she adds. "I'd be deeply grateful to have my life's work dedicated to providing that experience to future generations of students."

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A longtime volunteer for the school, **Loren Bullock '42** served as class secretary for the Class of 1942 for many years.

Loren grew up in the Boston area and spent three years at Mount Hermon, where he managed the ski team and sang in the choir, an experience that inspired him to sing in church choirs wherever he lived in the years that followed.

After graduation, Loren went to DePauw University. He was drafted in 1944 and sent to the U.S. Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School at Columbia University, then was commissioned as an ensign and assigned to a merchant ship in a convoy to Europe. Later, Loren was reassigned as a communication officer on a Navy supply ship in the Pacific, part of the armada that invaded Japan in 1945. He also worked on the communications staff at Boston Navy Yard. When he was released from active duty in 1946, he returned to DePauw with his wife, Polly Kidder, Northfield '42, under the GI Bill, earning a master's in physics.

Loren taught physics at Indiana University, Hamilton College, and Boston University before joining IBM in 1956. He worked there in applied science and marketing roles until his retirement in 1989.

Loren's favorite memories from Mount Hermon include studying chemistry with Dr. Paul E. Bowman, who introduced Loren to the periodic table (at which, he says, he still marvels), and mathematics with Arthur Platt, which inspired him to major in mathematics in college. But his strongest memory, he says, is of the beautiful 1,300-acre campus at Mount Hermon.

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Julia M. Cohen '97 is in her second term on the Alumni Council and serves as class secretary. She is also a legacy volunteer: Her father, Steve Cohen '59, was a founder of the Shabbat service that is now a reunion tradition.

“The work that I have done for and with NMH is incredibly important to me because I believe in its mission, its history, its current and future iterations and students,” Julia says. “I believe in the joy it brings to so many students, families, and faculty and staff members. I became so much of who I am at NMH, and I believe that NMH encourages this in all its community members because of its mission and values rather than its prestige or aspirations. NMH is so viscerally real — it brings out our truest selves.”

She gives to NMH, she continues, to ensure that that work can continue. “I want NMH to be its best self for as many students as possible and to be able to open its doors to as many as possible.”

As a lifelong educator and student, Julia says, she appreciates the “unique heart of NMH” that distinguishes it from other schools. “Keeping NMH alive and well in its alumni body keeps it healthy in its student body, I believe, by creating myriad pathways for how to be an NMH-er for life.”

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Deidra Dain '72 is a two-time member of the Alumni Council Strategic Advisory Committee and has served on the Communications Committee and on her class's 50th reunion committee. She loves connecting with NMH alumni – from all classes – because of their shared commitment to the school's values, she says.

“NMH provided me with life lessons during a critically formative time in my life,” Deidra says. From academics to opportunities to learn about other cultures through the people she met, her time at NMH “guided my journey personally and professionally,” she says. “Simply put, NMH showed me the possibilities of opportunity and nurtured my belief in our collective humanity. I deeply believe in contributing to help further the school's commitment to serving a wide diversity of students with a quality education.”

Deidra's favorite memories include playing on the tennis team, which allowed her to get to know other NMH students she might not otherwise have known. Her senior year, when the school first went co-ed, she was selected the first student social chair. “I worked with Marv Kelley and his secretary, Gaby Patterson (teacher Bill Patterson's wife),” she recalls. “I learned so much and felt a natural fit with the role, which influenced my future career journey. My most memorable accomplishment was facilitating the policy of allowing girl and boy students to visit each other's rooms during Saturday evening social hours.”

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A long-serving class secretary — she's been in the role since 1997 — **Jennifer R. (Sadula) deVore '92** has been instrumental in keeping her classmates connected over the years. Connecting with so many of her classmates, she says, exposes her to different ideas, backgrounds, and experiences — a particularly valuable gift in today's world that is in keeping with one of the things she loves about NMH: its embrace of the uniqueness and value of each individual.

Jennifer attended NMH for a postgraduate year and sang in the choir. While she attended four other high schools before coming to NMH, she says, the friendships she developed here have been the most meaningful to her. She attributes that to her fondness for both her classmates and teachers like Mary Ellen Peller, whom Jennifer strives to emulate now, in her work as a middle school teacher.

After graduating from NMH, Jennifer attended Virginia Tech, earning a degree in chemistry with a minor in political science. She started her career as a chemist but spent many years working in the field of intellectual property, working as a patent technical advisor, a patent examiner at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and as a paralegal and adviser on IP litigation and patent issues. More recently, she rekindled her love of science and became a middle school science teacher in Virginia. She has three children, aged 8, 12, and 13.

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Dana Gordon '67 has demonstrated support of NMH for a long time, including service as class secretary since 2007 and as a member of the Reunion Planning Committee since 2010. "One of the most important aspects of my NMH experience was getting to know people who were my age but from different parts of the country (or the world), some who shared my interests and came from similar backgrounds and others with whom I did not necessarily have much in common but became friends," he says.

"After graduation, I would eagerly await the arrival of the alumni magazine, especially the Class Notes section, to see what my former classmates were up to," Dana continues. "So when I was asked to consider taking over the role of class correspondent at our 40th reunion in 2007, I quickly volunteered. In the process, I have found myself getting to know classmates from both Mount Hermon and Northfield whom I barely knew. This has been especially rewarding, particularly on those occasions when we have gotten together in person, whether at reunions, Christmas Vespers in Boston, reunion-planning meetings, or the mini-reunions some of my classmates or I like to organize."

While it seemed like a small thing at the time, he says, Dana's involvement in the campus radio station played an important role in his future career. He worked in college radio, then spent 30 years in commercial radio, doing voiceover work, and worked as a production director, commercial copywriter, and advertising agency creative director.

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Erin E. Lyman '97 has given her head, heart, and hand to NMH in many ways since her graduation: As a volunteer, she has served as a reunion chair, an admission ambassador, an Alumni Council member, and an area association officer. As an NMH faculty member for almost a decade, she served as an admission officer, college counselor, and track and field and cross country coach.

Erin is particularly proud of NMH's commitment to diversity and inclusion. At every stage of her 22-year career as an educator, she says, she has benefitted from a deep understanding of her privileges and a commitment to including diverse perspectives. She credits the school with fostering this commitment and inspiring her to pursue a career that allowed her to live these values.

Erin has run over 20 Pie Races and cites the NMH running program as central to her development as a student and beyond. Her coaches from her eight seasons of running — including Ginny and Patrick Moody, Bill Batty, and Scott Lebo — shaped her approach to coaching, with a focus on creating a fun, inclusive, and ambitious athletic experience.

Serving NMH is a way to give back to an institution that provided so much opportunity to her family, Erin says. "Every year when I give to NMH, I give in the name of Mec Peller. Her impact during my time at NMH was fundamental to the person I am today." Erin also names Mary Hefner as an inspirational figure during her time at NMH; exceptional educators like Mec and Mary, who inspire students to become agents for positive change in the world, are what set NMH apart, she says.

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Barbara L. (Salthouse) Massoudi '82, P'14 has been a class secretary, class committee member, reunion chair, and area club volunteer. She has attended many NMH events over the years, especially when her son, Nicholas Massoudi '14, was on campus.

Barbara was a three-year student at NMH. She works in public health informatics in Atlanta.

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Thomas J. Sisson '72 has served the Class of 1972 as a long-standing class secretary and reunion chair. He also is a former member of the Alumni Council's Awards Committee.

Growing up on a small island off mainland Rhode Island, Tom says, his world was circumscribed by 22 miles of shoreline. When he got to NMH, he says, "I realized that there was a whole new world not far from me that I could explore, learn from, and interact with."

Why does Tom give back to NMH? "I probably have the same reasons as most alumni: NMH gave me the tools that I needed to be successful in life. What I learned about myself and others has carried with me for the last 50 years and has made me a better person." He is grateful to be able to provide the kind of support that he once benefitted from, he adds. "Someone 54 years ago made a donation that allowed me to attend."

Tom's favorite activity at NMH was choir. "Choir and singing taught me a different kind of discipline," he says. "As a group, you learn teamwork." The highlight of his time in choir came at the end of his senior year, when he was part of a group of singers who traveled through Romania under the auspices of Ambassadors for Friendship.

Tom recently retired as director of the Yawgoog Scout Reservation of the Narragansett Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He demonstrates his lifelong commitment to the "educated heart" through his volunteer work, including with the Rhode Island Blood Center and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Josie Rigby Spirit Award

Awarded to an alumnus or alumna for enthusiastic support of, and dedication to, the Reunion experience, and exceptional volunteer service to Northfield Mount Hermon.

Stephen Green '87, P'18, '20 is a reunion aficionado: Over the years, he has served his class as reunion gift chair and reunion organizer. In 2012, he became a member of the Reunion Advisory Committee, serving as chair from 2015 to 2021, when his leadership during the virtual reunion was especially noteworthy. Appropriately enough, Steve was one of the Reunion Advisory Committee members who created the Josie Rigby Spirit Award in 2014.

Steve is proud of the positive impact NMH had on his personal and professional life. He is especially grateful, he says, for the opportunity to study Chinese and travel to China with his NMH mentor, George Henrichson, which sparked his interest in continued studies in Chinese. Today, he reads, writes, and speaks Chinese in the daily operation of the two companies he founded, thanks to the special opportunity afforded to him at NMH through the generous donations of others, he notes.

Those kinds of opportunities motivate Steve to pay it forward to today's NMH students. "Out there in the world somewhere there is a young version of myself who is depending on that little extra bit of help to make it through their NMH education," he says. "It is the least I can do to repay my debt."

Steve is also very proud that his daughters, Sonya '18 and Maya '20, are NMH graduates.

Young Alumni Award

Awarded to an alumnus or alumna of the past 15 years for exceptional volunteer service to, and support of, Northfield Mount Hermon.

Roberta Taggart '07 has served on the Alumni Council for three years as a member of the Young Alumni Committee. She also spent five years on the NMH Board of Trustees, where she was the youngest alum ever to serve. She currently is a member of her class reunion committee and happily shares that she is still friends with many of her Class of 2007 classmates.

Roberta has been an NMH leader since her student days, when she rowed crew, played field hockey and ice hockey, and sang in the choir. She went on to study international economics at Georgetown University, spending a year at the London School of Economics. Today she works in venture and investment banking as a vice president at RBC Capital Markets.

She has been a consistent supporter of NMH activities in New York City over the years, as well as a supporter of the annual NMH Gives event. She comes from a legacy family: Both her great-grandmother and grandmother went to Northfield School for Girls, while her granduncle attended Mount Hermon.

William H. Morrow Award

Named in honor of former faculty member Bill Morrow, this award goes to a non-alumnus/a who has had a significant impact on the life and spirit of Northfield Mount Hermon.

Meg Donnelly P'96, '18 arrived at NMH almost 40 years ago to teach English. A consummate teacher and learner, she values opportunities to learn both in the classroom and in the world at large. Her classes are engaging, high energy, and reach far beyond the teaching of basic writing skills and exploration of literature.

In 1987, Meg helped create the integrated English/religion course known as Humanities I, which remains an important foundation for 9th- and 10th-graders. In the course, students are challenged to answer four essential questions about themselves and their surroundings while examining a variety of literature. Those questions — “Who am I?” “What is my place?” “What does it mean to be human?” “How, then, shall I live?” — provide a touchstone for classroom discussion and an affirmation of the “head, heart, and hand” philosophy of NMH. For many students, the course was a formative experience. Meg, in turn, has been shaped over the years by her students, who have helped her teaching to grow, evolve, and sparkle.

Meg and her husband, Glenn Minshall, provided another formative experience for students by developing a New Zealand international experience that wasn't about sightseeing but, instead, about *sitebeing*. One student fortunate enough to go to Aotearoa — the Land of the Long White Cloud — with Meg and Glenn summed up her experience in a Commencement oration with the words of a Māori elder: “This is yours to keep.” For Meg's colleagues and students over the past 40 years, the time they had with her is theirs to keep.

Community Service Award

Awarded to an alumnus or alumna who has been of service to a particular community, thus acknowledging the value a Northfield Mount Hermon education places on community service.

For **Ritchie (Davis) Dow '67**, NMH helped spark a desire to give back to her community. During her time at NMH, at the height of the civil rights movement, the school provided a unique forum for community discussion and advancement, recognizing diversity and encouraging students to serve the community through the head, heart, and hand, she says. NMH also helped expand her horizons, she says, through activities such as Vespers, Mountain Day, and campus visits from distinguished speakers and guests, as well as the opportunity to serve as chair of the Outing Club.

Since graduating from NMH, Ritchie has found fulfillment in giving back to her community, both near and far. As a volunteer for Partners for World Health, she works on two issues that are very important to her: ensuring that much-needed medical supplies are distributed to local and global communities and protecting our environment.

Ritchie's interest in promoting carbon-dioxide removal has led her to join the Foundation for Climate Restoration, or F4CR. "I am especially pleased that we have started a Maine chapter of F4RC because there are many climate actions that can be taken specifically in the state of Maine," she says. "My ongoing participation in the League of Women Voters is also important to me, because I want to ensure that citizens are informed of ways they can become involved in local government."

Distinguished Service Award

The highest honor bestowed on an alumnus or alumna, for outstanding career achievement and for demonstrated service to humanity.

Since graduating from NMH, **Bisa Williams '72** has built a career focused on serving others across the globe. She spent over 30 years in the U.S. Department of State in numerous national and international roles, including as ambassador to the Republic of Niger. Bisa is a co-founder and managing director of Williams Strategy Advisors and an instructor at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs. She serves in multiple roles at the Carter Center, is a senior advisor at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, and chairs the Board of Directors of Health and Development International.

Bisa's favorite activities at school included May Day and singing at chapel, an activity that expressed Northfield's ethos of community and acting with a higher purpose, she says. She also loved meeting Black students at Northfield and other schools through her involvement with the Black Student Union. Spending a semester in Spain during her senior year helped her realize who she might be in the world, she says.

Donating to NMH, Bisa says, is a way to express her gratitude for her experience here. She hopes students will continue to develop a sense of self and be able to blossom from the foundation that NMH provides, she adds.

Bisa values service opportunities that allow her to help people improve their lives, live with dignity, and realize their full potential, she says. She also values the opportunity to help people in other countries achieve the sorts of liberties that we have in the U.S.

Lampighter Award

The highest honor bestowed on an alumnus or alumna for outstanding service to Northfield Mount Hermon.

Sally L. Willis '82 served as her class secretary for 15 years, co-chaired the class of '82's 25th reunion, and helped plan this year's reunion, her class's 40th reunion. .

Sally's love of nature and the outdoors was nurtured at NMH, from Carol Knox's biology and botany classes to Larry Lightner's plant sale, she says. She is a cofounder of NMH Rocky Mountain, a group for alumni and parents in the Rocky Mountain region, where for 20 years she's been the driving force behind outdoor events, from picnics in July to Mountain Days in October to ski days in winter. She's even brought the Rocky Mountains east, helping plan ski days in New England (even though, she'll tell you, the snow here just isn't the same!). While she'll be the first to tell you that she doesn't do it alone, her enthusiasm always places her in the forefront, and when she hears a good idea, like the Pie Ride at reunion, she throws her energy into it.

While Sally loves bringing people out into the fresh air and sunlight, she says, her deeper goal is to create community, by renewing old friendships and fostering new connections and establishing community where it didn't exist before. She loves to see skiers who learned the art in the 1950s on the same slopes as snowboarders from the 2000s and beyond, she notes — and there's nothing that delights her more than when unexpected relationships reveal themselves, and it turns out that that older skiers' granddaughter went to college with the snowboarder.