

Alumni Citation Award

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

Roland “Roly” W. Coates ’47 has a long history with NMH centered around singing. Roly says he “sang in all the musical groups the school had to offer” when he was a student. He credits the experience with giving him confidence in his ability to perform, teaching him the value of teamwork, and promoting a lifelong participation in music. He comes back to sing at Sacred Concert each year; it’s a tradition that bolsters his spirits and those of the students, faculty, and alumni around him. Although singing is the passion that ties him to NMH to this day, it is not Roly’s only artistic endeavor. His hobbies include art, music, and creative writing. He has even self-published a memoir.

During his years at Mount Hermon, Roly learned how to live the values of head, heart, and hand. A key element was his exposure to a diverse student body: at Mount Hermon he learned that “people, while different, are still all the same.” His teachers, including Albert “Al” Raymond, who gave him confidence, William “Bull” Rineer, who encouraged him to take risks, and Donald “Doc” Weston, his economics teacher, opened new worlds and a greater understanding of life.

Roly has been a longstanding volunteer and caller on behalf of the school and a warm and enthusiastic Sacred Concert alumni choir member. His energy, presence, and dedication to NMH are unmatched. He writes of his tradition of attending the springtime concert, year after year, in a poem below:

Group Singing

Over the years I have thought,
this is my last year.
The drive is long and hard,
the rehearsals demanding and long.
An exhausting thing for one
as old as I.

But who can resist the glorious sounds
from students, alumni, and orchestra,
the spirit, the togetherness.
But last year was my last year.
What are we singing next year?

NMH has been blessed with Roly’s voice and spirit for many years, and he is most deserving of this award.

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After graduating from Northfield School for Girls, **Joyce Judith Moore Arthur '57** went to Brown University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in biology. She went on to earn a Master of Arts in teaching from Yale University and a doctorate in radiation biology and genetics from the University of Tennessee. She is retired from a varied career of teaching at the high school and university levels and working as a travel lecturer, naturalist, biologist, and county supervisor.

From her Northfield days Joyce fondly remembers Miss Margaret Mensel, the admission director who recognized that starting school midyear was a challenge and brought her fresh apples. Joyce believes that Northfield enabled her to find a wider world than the secure corner in which she grew up and to recognize that with work and perseverance, she could do anything she chose. Northfield also inspired her to engender similar goals and aspirations in her own students during her career as an educator.

Joyce is known among her NMH classmates as an enthusiastic point person who is dedicated to bringing people together. She is an integral force in encouraging her classmates to attend on-campus reunions and an annual Maine Madness event that has been held each fall since their 45th reunion. In her unofficial roles as mother hen, sounding board, bulletin board, and chief communication link, she shows an extraordinary ability to bring people together. Joyce inspires classmates to stay connected to each other and to the school, and to have a lot of fun in the process.

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After graduating from Mount Hermon, **Lloyd E. Mitchell '57** went on to the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a bachelor's degree in math, and then to the University of Michigan, where he earned a master's degree in computer science. Among Lloyd's professional accomplishments, two stand out: He programmed the onboard guidance system computers for the Atlas and Centaur missiles and developed flight path simulation software for NASA's space program in the early sixties. Later, Lloyd was the lead developer on the team responsible for implementing the universal accounting system used by Mobil's global subsidiaries.

There were two people at Mount Hermon who had a lasting impact on Lloyd: Samuel "Sam" Greene's quiet motivation and encouragement resonated particularly well with him and helped his decision to major in math in college. Wilhelmina "Billie" Donovan gave him a good foundation in German, which he later used in his work.

To understand the influence that Mount Hermon had on Lloyd, one must first be aware of his background. Lloyd was born and raised in Petersburg, Virginia, one of the most segregated cities in the United States at the time. Many stores still had separate entrances; all had separate water fountains and bathrooms. Before attending Mount Hermon, Lloyd had only had a handful of conversations with white people in his entire life. Here he was treated as an equal, which validated his own belief in racial equality. He quickly realized that there were many more opportunities awaiting him than he had ever imagined, and he has built on the support he received at Mount Hermon to achieve personal and professional success. During his work years and after retirement Lloyd has supported civil rights issues in the community.

Lloyd has served NMH well in the years after graduation. He chaired the Alumni Council Diversity Committee for six years (2008–2014) and has served on the Strategic Advisory Committee since then. Lloyd was the Class of 1957's reunion chair for the 55th reunion, is co-chair for the 60th, and has been a member of the gift committee. Many of Lloyd's classmates will tell you about the work he has done on the Class of 1957 interactive website, which has been instrumental in bringing the class together.

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After attending Mount Hermon, **Richard “Dick” C. Linthicum ’62** received a bachelor’s degree in economics from Lafayette College, followed by an M.B.A in finance at New York University. After a long and storied career, which includes having served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1969 and a 45-year stint at Citigroup in New York City, Dick recalls his time at Mount Hermon fondly.

Dick says that his time at Mount Hermon enabled him to fulfill a variety of leadership roles later in life. He served as the class president for three of his four years “on the hill” and class secretary the other year. Learning the “dignity of labor” was key for Dick. These reasons alone may have compelled Dick to volunteer in service of NMH, but Dick’s high school experience was so much more.

As a student Dick became close with multiple members of the faculty. He credits his class advisor, William “Bill” Compton ’44, with providing constant feedback and advice. David Burnham also imparted wisdom on a regular basis. Others, including William “Bill” Morrow, Gladys Forslund ’26, Rodman “Rod” Scheffer ’46, and G. Albert “Al” Higgins ’50, provided inspiration and care that would leave a lasting mark on Dick’s life, and ultimately inspire him to give back.

Dick has been a steadfast supporter of the school as an alumnus. He has been involved in class fundraising and reunion planning efforts for at least 20 years and has been a dependable phonathon attendee. He even established his very own family endowed scholarship in memory of his mother, Virginia Feustel Linthicum ’34, and his father, Thomas Hopkins Linthicum ’34, thereby solidifying a strong philanthropic legacy. His decades of support and action have left a lasting mark and inspired others to take a greater role to ensure the wellbeing of NMH for generations to come.

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Donna Eaton Mahoney '67 has had a distinguished and meaningful career as a child welfare social worker and as a supervisor specializing in adoption for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Among her many achievements is the development of a training program for foster and adoptive parents, which is still used nationally. She twice earned the Pride in Performance award for outstanding state service.

Donna will tell you that the importance of service to others was instilled in her at Northfield and influenced her career choice in social work. She remembers her freshman and senior English teacher Dora Palmer, who, while a task master, told wonderful stories. Donna also has a fond regard for her faculty advisor in East Gould, Elaine Rankin Bailey '55, who provided needed support whether breaking good or bad news. She also remembers Lucille Kendall as a warm and caring house mother.

After a long hiatus from the NMH alumni world, Donna reengaged in 2002 when her 10th grade roommate, Winifred "Winnie" Curtis '67, issued a dare to attend their 35th reunion. According to Donna, "By the end of that weekend, I was elected class secretary and began my involvement in alumni activities. My circle of NMH friends has expanded way beyond those I knew as a student, and we continue to make memories." She appreciates the diversity of her NMH friends and the richness that it adds to her life.

Since 2002, Donna has made a major impact at the alumni level. She is a member of the Class of 1967's reunion committee and has taken on the herculean job of editor of the class's 50th reunion yearbook. Donna also continues her role as class secretary. For the past 15 years Donna has given of her time and talent in support of NMH.

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William “Will” F. Melton ’67 has a long and rich history with NMH. After graduating from Mount Hermon, Will went to the University of Virginia, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in religious studies. He married Eliza P. Childs ’67, a classmate from across the river in Northfield, and they raised four children.

While at NMH, Will was a member of the Led Balloon Jug band and discovered an interest in the mandolin, which he continues playing to this day. His list of faculty and staff heroes is a long one and includes Carroll Bailey, David Cobb, Glyn Jones, Jon Prentiss, Duane Estes, G. Albert “Al” Higgins ’50, and Wilhelmina “Billie” Donovan. Will believes that of all the educational institutions he attended, Mount Hermon prepared him best for the challenges of the real world.

During his 40-year career in education, Will was a leader in development for several institutions, including Chatham Hall, Friends School of Baltimore, Scripps College, and RISD Museum of Art. He was a vice president at Middlebury College, where he managed a \$213 million campaign and simultaneously conducted the college’s bicentennial celebration. He also completed a campaign for Yale University School of Medicine and Yale New Haven Hospital. Most recently he has been associated with the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he remains active, helping to establish a volunteer board for its Institute for Applied Sciences. He is a co-founder of the Springfield Mandolin Orchestra and plays with L’Esperence Mandolin Ensemble in Rhode Island. He is also involved with Mount Holyoke Community Rowing.

Another chapter in Will’s NMH history opened when he returned to serve as the director of development for seven years (1979–1986). He was president of the Alumni Association for six years (2001–2007) and on the Board of Trustees for 11 years (2001–2012). He has been a loyal reunion volunteer and class secretary, and is serving on the 50th Reunion Gift Committee as the Planned Giving Chair.

Alumni Citation Award Josie Rigby Spirit Award

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Kit W. Gattis '87 has been an active leader in his class activities, serving on the reunion committee since his class's fifth reunion. He has also been ongoing class secretary and co-chair of the 20th reunion, as well as a member of the reunion advisory committee of the Alumni Council. This year Kit is serving as reunion co-chair for the Class of 1987's 30th reunion. After NMH, Kit went on to Harvard College and has been employed there for 25 years. He believes that the education of head, heart, and hand has continued to be a focal point of his life.

Kit says that NMH taught him that the "sky's the limit" as he continues to pursue classes, experience the "the power and joy of community," and engage in the hard work necessary to accomplish one's goals in life.

Kit is a dancer and believes that Patricia "Patty" Smith influenced him the most while at school. He had nearly given up on dance but changed his mind when he saw a dance performance during Parent Weekend. Kit says the performance "captured my imagination and told me that I needed to chase this dream now and not keep it buried inside me." He contacted Patty and took up dance as a varsity sport. He continued to dance in college and still dances to this day. He pursues his interests in cirque, improv, musical improv, and stand-up comedy. He led a seminar at Alumni Dance Weekend in 2015.

Kit seems to always be on campus, working to build class enthusiasm. He is a longtime class secretary and reunion committee member. Kit exudes NMH pride. For these reasons, Kit has been selected to be this year's recipient of the Josie Rigby Spirit Award.

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

Elizabeth “Liz” S. Donald ’07 credits her four years at NMH for instilling within her a deep and abiding sense of self. NMH did for her what it continues to do for so many students: cultivate open mindedness, an appreciation for global perspectives, and hard work. Such qualities have contributed to Liz’s impressive achievements in the short time since graduating, including a bachelor’s degree in communication and public service from University of Pennsylvania and a host of women’s rowing awards, highlighted by a bronze medal as a member of the U.S. National Team World Rowing Under 23 Championships.

Liz’s time at NMH was formative. Of all the adults who helped contribute to her academic, athletic, and personal growth, none was more impactful for Liz and her twin sister, Rebecca ’07, than Victoria “Vicky” Jenkins. Liz considers Vicky a cherished mentor who helped shape the trajectory of her life. Liz further credits Vicky with much of her success as a high school and college rower, citing her holistic approach to training, which included an introduction to yoga “before yoga was even a thing.”

Liz’s appreciation for her high school experience has ignited a fiery passion for giving back. In addition to her six-year tenure on the Alumni Council, she has served on the Class of 2007 Reunion Planning Committee, and, together with her sister, hosted a kick-off fundraising event for NMH’s boathouse fundraising campaign.

In recognition of Liz’s outstanding efforts to ensure the continued success of NMH, the Alumni Council has chosen her as the recipient of the Young Alumni Award. The energy and commitment with which she approaches her work in service of the school is not only effective in its own right, it also serves as an inspiration to other young alumni who will soon be charged with supporting the school’s future. The council remains excited about Liz’s future efforts to ensure the school’s ongoing prosperity and success.

W.H. Morrow Award

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

To be successful on the staff at a boarding school you must become one with the school, and **Cecile DeLa Cruz P'16** has done exactly that. He consistently steps up when he sees a need and goes above and beyond his duties in Dining Services as the head general service assistant because of his love for students and the community. Many alumni remember a workjob assignment in Dining Services as difficult or undesirable, but Cecile's presence makes students want to work in the dining hall. As a workjob supervisor, Cecile teaches students to do the right thing and helps them succeed. He also demands the best of his students because he wants them to reach their potential.

Cecile often seems to be almost omnipresent in the NMH community. He's been known to transport students to and from the airport at the beginning and end of school and during breaks, and he has particularly enjoyed getting involved with the boys' varsity basketball program. He sits with the team on the bench during games and drives the bus to away competitions. Win or lose, Cecile wants the players to do their best. He also likes to remind them that they are kids and need to have fun.

Richard Mueller '62 (former head of school) and Claire Mueller introduced Cecile and his family to NMH in 1998. Cecile immediately recognized the school as a special place and was inspired by the diversity of the student body. He has become an important thread in the fabric of the NMH community and is often recognized by current and former students as part of what NMH is and aspires to be. Cecile won the NMH Student Choice Award in both 2012 and 2016.

"Representing NMH is truly an honor for me," says Cecile. "That's why I call NMH my 'home away from home!'"

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.

The consummate example of an educated head, heart, and hand, **A'Dorian Murray-Thomas '12** saw a vital need in the Newark, New Jersey, community and decided to take action to address it. Service to others was nothing new for A'Dorian. At NMH she was a student leader in Wallace, a member of the Headmaster Advisory Search Committee and the Student Hiring Committee, and a student deacon. A'Dorian lists many individuals as being important to her development, but James Greenwood and Janae Peters in particular helped make NMH feel like her second home.

A'Dorian says, "NMH instilled in me the true value of community: a place where it's not enough to just benefit from a community that is supportive and inclusive, but to take an active role in making your community that way." When she went to Swarthmore College, she took an active role in making the campus and greater local community inclusive and equality-centered.

She carries that same spirit with her today in her work as founder and CEO of a girls' leadership and social action organization in her hometown of Newark, New Jersey: She Wins! Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to engaging, empowering, and educating the next generation of women. It creates a safe space for Newark girls who have been impacted by violence and focuses on homicide survivors, at-risk foster care youth, and girls who have experienced trauma or had absent fathers. This effort has been so meaningful and successful that articles have been published about A'Dorian's endeavors in NJ.com and USA Today. A'Dorian was also named one of Glamour's 2016 College Women of the Year.

For these reasons we are honored to recognize A'Dorian with our Community Service Award, which comes with an honorarium from the Harold A. Knapp Jr. Foundation. Recognizing individuals who have worked for public causes great or small, the Harold A. Knapp Jr. Foundation funds a \$250 honorarium for an organization chosen by each Community Service Award recipient. A'Dorian has chosen She Wins, Inc. to receive the honorarium.

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J. Lucinda “Cindy” Kidder ’62 has a history of volunteering for NMH as a reunion chair, a member of the Alumni Council Reunion Advisory Committee, Class Reunion Committee, Gift Committee, and as an area club volunteer. She currently serves as Reunion Chair for her 55th reunion. What she has done as a volunteer for NMH, she now does for the local community.

Cindy has always found a way to be involved in theater and teaching. Since her graduation from Northfield, she has earned a B.A. in psychology, an M.A. in theater education, and an M.F.A. in directing. She also has pursued doctoral work in Renaissance literature and performance studies. She has taught at NMH, the University of Massachusetts, Mount Holyoke College, Worcester State College, and Stoneleigh Burnham. Her extensive and fascinating resume includes tackling such subjects as LGBTQIA and playwrights of color and other cultures, as well as many productions and classes in directing all over the world.

She credits faculty members Albert “Al” Raymond, who taught her the power of song; Dora Palmer, who awakened a true love of learning for its own sake and taught her how to research and write intelligently; F. Benjamin Carr, who helped her through her own crisis of faith; and Grace Robertson, whose enthusiasm and help produced many projects. Northfield taught Cindy about myriad forms of public and community service, especially with concern for the environment and the protection of civil rights.

Cindy has settled in the Pioneer Valley and is forming a coalition of all of the performing arts organizations in the Upper Connecticut Valley. Her latest venture, with former faculty member David Rowland, is Silverthorne Theater (named for NMH’s Silverthorne Theater). This professional theater project began in 2013 and has consistently given theatergoers powerful plays to make them think. Cindy brings her roots and insatiable curiosity about living in this world to the stage and leaves audiences changed and wanting more.

For these reasons we are honored to award Cindy the Community Service Award, which comes with an honorarium from the Harold A. Knapp Jr. Foundation. Recognizing individuals who have worked for public causes great or small, the Harold A. Knapp Jr. Foundation funds a \$250 honorarium for an organization chosen by each Community Service Award recipient. Cindy has chosen the Silverthorne Theater Company to receive the honorarium.

The Lamplighter Award

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

Dorothy “Dorrie” Krakower Susser ’56’s commitment and dedication is “just unbelievable and second to none.” This is but one in an ocean of accolades that have been addressed to Dorrie for her many years of service to NMH.

Thinking back to her four years at Northfield, she recalls three teachers whose influence made a difference in her life: Miss Margaret Chapin, who opened the world of math and logic to her; Wilfred “Willy” Freeman, the English teacher who, famously, would enter the classroom by crawling through the window, which Dorrie believes he did to help instill the joy of unconventionality and the importance of original thinking; and Albert “Al” Raymond, who inspired her life-long love of choral music.

In Dorrie’s own words, “Northfield changed my life. It taught me both how to have friends and how to be a friend to others. It helped me to develop my personal belief system. Most of all, it gave me the beginnings of self-confidence in my abilities. So when adversity came my way, I knew I could get through it because I’m a Northfield girl.”

After Northfield, and after studying math at Wellesley and then as a graduate student at Cal Berkeley, Dorrie joined AT&T, where she spent most of her career, as a systems and data analyst and a manager of corporate data strategy.

Dorrie is currently a part-time consultant. The list of events and activities in which she has participated on behalf of NMH numbers over 150 and continues to grow. Over the years, she has been a reunion chair, class chair, gift chair, phonation volunteer, area association officer, class caller, reunion yearbook coordinator, secretary of the Alumni Council, and vice president of the Alumni Council.

In 2006, at her 50th reunion, Dorrie was a recipient of an Alumni Citation Award. In the years since receiving that well-earned award for her devotion to NMH, she has, if anything, accelerated her activity on the school’s behalf. We wish to honor Dorrie with Northfield Mount Hermon’s highest honor for service to the school.

The Lamplighter Award

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For **Alan “Al” Burnett ’62**, Mount Hermon instilled a lifelong love of athletics. He has participated in and coached various sports over the years and is still coaching youth lacrosse in Groton, Connecticut. Al has participated in the Boston Marathon, New York Marathon, and the 100th Pie Race here at NMH. He has taken part in the Bermuda Yacht Race, and in the past few years he’s taken up rowing.

After school “on the hill,” Al went on to Denison University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in economics. For much of Al’s career he owned a Gulf station in Mystic, Connecticut. He’s currently the boathouse supervisor and boat captain for the Mystic Seaport Museum.

Vitold “Vit” Piscuskas and David Burnham were two of Al’s role models while he was at Mount Hermon. Vit taught him the value of hard work and discipline on the field, which to this day Al tries to instill in young athletes. David’s love and compassion for everyone has been a shining example for Al to follow throughout his life and inspires him even now. Both men had, and continue to have, a huge impact long after Al’s student days. Vit became his boss in 2004 when Al worked in the athletics department at NMH. (Al also worked in the NMH advancement office part time and was the dorm head of Hayden.) David became Al’s sailing friend and shipmate, and they have spent many memorable miles sailing, racing, and cruising on the Atlantic together.

Al has been serving NMH as a volunteer for many years. He was involved with the 2013 effort to finish the Memorial Chapel organ pipe shades and has been a gift chair for his class since 2003, including for his 50th reunion. He served on the Alumni Council’s Ad-hoc Committee for Athletics in 2015, on the Annual Fund Committee from 2012 to 2015, and as chair of the NMH Fund Committee in 2012. Al was an admission ambassador from 2004 to 2009 and has a long history with his class reunion committee. Al helps to keep his classmates engaged and encourages support of the school. He volunteers when needed — always enthusiastically — and with charm, patience, and a ready smile.

For all that Alan Burnett does for NMH and for his class we are privileged to present to him the Lamplighter Award.

Distinguished Service Award

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

The values that were instilled in **Patricia Alice Watson Bartlett '67** at NMH shaped her choice to pursue a career in social work and dedicate her work to the most marginalized people. After graduating from Boston University's School of Social Work, she worked with Adult Protective Services in the Department of Social Services to help people who had potential to harm themselves or others. She frequently defended patients' rights in the judicial system.

Patricia's career lead her to Durham Regional Hospital and then to Duke Medical Center's Infectious Disease Clinic, which launched her into decades of work on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. At Duke she provided counseling to AIDS patients, including gay men, drug users, women who had been infected by men, and mothers of HIV-infected babies.

From Duke, Patricia went to Tanzania, where she has spent more than 10 years at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center and the Duke Health Collaborative. Her work has involved community engagement, infrastructure development, faculty growth, and medical school support. She attributes her success to the sense of trust and team building that has been the bedrock of her work. Despite the many challenges of working and living in the Global South, Patricia is sustained by "the mutual respect for patients and members of the collaborative and a broad appreciation for being part of a team."

At Northfield Patricia discovered the importance of real and strong friendships. She learned about social justice, and she gained the ability to think critically and find unique solutions for unique problems, all of which allowed her to pursue a path from the United States to Tanzania. She says, "The ability to find comic relief through these friends and our patients keeps us sane. Our love of music, travel, and running/walking, and our spiritual bonds make life interesting."

For her success, her dedication, and her unselfish service to those who are infected with AIDS, NMH is pleased to present Patricia with the Distinguished Service Award.