

Distinguished Alumni

Distinguished Alumnus Award – 2013

Walter Douglas '73

One of the State Department's most senior advisors in India, you are the current minister counselor for public affairs at the U.S. embassy in New Delhi. You are also responsible for overseeing public affairs at the consulates in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad.

As a young man from San Francisco, you arrived on the Mesa in the fall of 1969, with an already keen interest in world history and current affairs. Over the next four years you developed into a class leader with a mature sense of purpose and direction.

During your time at Cate, your advisor and english teacher, Stephen Spittler, consistently noted your tremendous enthusiasm, motivation and healthy self-confidence. Interestingly, a great deal of your free time was spent playing a game called "Diplomat," which Spittler commented "fit right in with your love of history and power politics."

Indeed, your enormous curiosity and knowledge of the past landed you with the History Prize your senior year. You captained the track team, chaired the movie committee and wrote for the Press Club and *El Batidor*. Upon graduation, Assistant Headmaster Joseph Caldwell remarked that you were the "kind of boy that makes a class go. A leader and producer, yet still nice, polite, and friendly--old fashion virtues that make you very well respected and liked amongst your schoolmates. A perfect example of a late bloomer that has bloomed. Walt has our highest recommendation."

After Cate, you attended the University of Pennsylvania, graduating with a B.A. in History in 1977. You began your professional life as an advertising executive in New York followed by a tenure in Congress as a legislative assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Your passion for world affairs led you to the Foreign Service in 1986. Your early U.S. missions took you to South Korea and Côte d'Ivoire. Later you were promoted deputy to the spokesman at the U.S. mission to the United Nations under Ambassador Madeleine Albright. You have also served as a public affairs officer at U.S. diplomatic missions in Turkey, Cyprus, and Iceland, as well as the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Between foreign postings, you served in Washington as executive assistant to the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs and as the director of the office of press and public diplomacy in the Near Eastern Affairs bureau. Until October, 2011, you were based in Islamabad as the director of communications for the U.S. mission in Pakistan. You have extensively researched American public diplomacy and the Muslim world. Prior to arriving in New Delhi in August, 2012, you were a senior visiting fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C.

Despite your extensive travels and exhaustive work schedule, you have never forgotten Cate School. You have been a loyal volunteer as a Class Agent and Reunion chair for your 40th anniversary at Camp Cate. You have hosted Cate receptions in Washington D.C., and have assisted in networking with several young Cate alumni. As a Mesa Level donor, you have

donated to the Cate Fund since 1983. Last but not least, you are the proud Cate parent of daughter's **Lacy '14** and **Elizabeth '16**.

Stephen Spittler correctly stated, "Walter is all we ever hoped he would be." For your longstanding work in public service, for your efforts to support U.S. global diplomacy, and for your exemplary commitment to the school, we honor you Walter Douglas with the 2013 Cate Distinguished Alumnus Award.