

# Distinguished Alumni

## Distinguished Alumni Award – 2010

### Greg H. Kubicek '74

From the moment you stepped onto the Mesa as a new junior, you were a natural leader. Headmaster Fred Clark once wrote: "There is a quality of powerful goodness about Greg Kubicek that most people notice immediately. They sit up a little straighter, talk a little more quietly, and unconsciously put on their best behavior when he is near." You earned respect, in addition to the nickname "Kubi," from your peers and elders with your determination to succeed in the classroom and on the athletic field. After one year, you were elected student body president, prefect, and captain of the track and field team, reflecting widespread recognition of those qualities of thoughtfulness and optimism that still guide you today. Sharing Cate's highest honor, the Biddle Cup, with fellow Trustee Mark Whiting '74, you graduated as a member of the Cum Laude Society.

After Cate, you earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard University. Later, you made your mark in the manufacturing industry and in commercial real estate, frequently partnering with other Cate alumni. By the age of 28, you were president of Santa Fe Partners, Inc., a private investment firm, and had established Petro-Tieg, an oil and gas exploration firm, with your brother Tim. Hoping to benefit from your extraordinary business acumen, others sought your advice and counsel, inviting you to serve on numerous boards including a term as chairman of the Cascade Corporation and as a director of Cadet Manufacturing Company. Currently, you serve as president of Holt Homes Group, an international developer and manager of commercial and residential real estate properties, as a director of Redwood Trust, a New York Stock Exchange Real Estate Investment Trust, and as a director of the Community Foundation of Southwest Washington, an organization dedicated to using private philanthropy to build stronger communities.

Throughout your professional career, Cate has remained among your highest priorities. You were invited to join the board as one of its youngest members in 1985, chairing numerous committees and playing a critical role in many campaigns. Your incisive financial analysis and

irrefutable logic catalyzed Cate's Campaign for the Nineties, the School's first major endowment effort. In your board tenure, your emphasis on endowment and fiscal responsibility has laid a strong foundation for the ongoing financial health of the School's program and physical plant. In 2005, you were elected president of the Cate Board of Trustees and, with unmatched energy and infectious enthusiasm, you immersed yourself in the School's Centennial Campaign, its largest campaign to date. Your leadership and support of your fellow board members—reinforced by generous pre-meeting dinners—have solidified the board and created a sense of community that lies at the heart of the Cate experience. It is this sense of community, as well as the strength, wisdom, and friendship you received from your own teachers, that has made you a constant and passionate advocate for the best student instruction, an advocacy that has led you to personally mentor Cate student interns over the summer.

Although your style of leadership is quiet and deliberate, the exercise of it has had an enormous impact on the culture of the School. Good judgment and a willingness to contribute unselfishly to Cate have made you a confidante to administrators, faculty, and board members alike. Under your humble yet clear direction, Cate has masterfully maintained the honorable traditions of its past while realizing and embracing its vision for the future.

For your remarkable contributions to business and philanthropy; for your devoted service to this institution; and for your enrichment of the many individuals fortunate enough to have had you as mentor, confidante, or friend, we honor you, Greg H. Kubicek '74, with Cate's Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2010.