

Distinguished Alumni

Distinguished Alumnus Award - 1999

John D. Caldwell '59

Your graduation from Cate School in 1959 marked not a close, but rather the beginning of one of the most remarkable relationships this School has ever enjoyed with an alumnus. During your years as a student here (when the King still ruled from his Mesa House retirement and Francis "Parkie" Parkman could strike sheer terror into the heart of a lowly Parsonage boy with a single glare from those piercing eyes), you made quite an impact on the Mesa.

Known to your classmates as "Budget," you served as Bank Manager, Associate Editor of the *El Batidor*, member of the Rocket Society, member of the Cum Laude Society, and Parsonage Prefect. You were the winner of the Harvard Book Prize, Public Speaking Prize, and School Latin Prize.

You matriculated at Amherst College in Western Massachusetts, which granted you a bachelor's degree in Political Science in 1963. Apparently the Eastern winters did not agree with you, because you returned to the University of California at Santa Barbara to continue your studies, earning your master's in 1967 and your Ph.D. six years after that.

Given your fascination with international relations (and a dissertation based on Communist revolutionary warfare in Southeast Asia), it seems only fitting that your first "real job," (as you would phrase it) was in Saigon in 1968, where you served as a member of a Defense Department-sponsored team asked to study military and security issues for the Military Assistance Command/Vietnam (MACV).

Your career since then has reflected your combined interests in international relations, national security, and technology. As a program manager and proposal operations manager at TRW Space & Electronics Corporation, you have been instrumental in the planning and implementation of some of our nation's most important and technologically advanced security operations. The list of advisory publications you have authored or co-authored is long and impressive and (if the titles are anything to go by) highly technological. Knowing you, they are also grammatically correct, right down to the last semicolon.

Your career, however, is but one of your passions. This School is fortunate to be another. Your support of Cate throughout the years since your graduation has been unceasing; as an Annual Fund participant you have, with several of your classmates, led what is arguably the most cohesive and supportive graduating class in school history. In fact, the Class of '59 holds three separate records for reunion class giving, a remarkable distinction.

Only recently, during Camp Cate '99, you spearheaded the most well-attended Cate fortieth reunion ever. And, once again working hand-in-hand with your classmates, you rallied the Class of '59 into an outstanding show of support for Cate 2000, the School's current capital campaign. However, mere fundraising was clearly not your primary objective; the monies you raised toward Cate 2000 were earmarked to become the naming gift of the Athletic Director's Office in the new gymnasium,

in honor of Dana Redington, who was your chemistry teacher and friend when you and your classmates were students here.

You have not, however, limited your Cate-related activities to efforts and activities involving only your class. You joined the School's Board of Trustees in 1993, bringing with you what seemed like an endless supply of energy, resourcefulness, and commitment. In that year, you became part of a trustee task force working with the School's growing Alumni and Development Office to increase giving to the School's Annual Fund and achieve the remarkable goal of 50% alumni participation in that effort.

The number of times you personally picked up the telephone and called an alumnus or alumna with an appeal for Cate cannot be counted. What can be measured are results; the School now enjoys an exemplary record of support from its graduates, a fact that has contributed greatly to the remarkable success of Cate 2000. This seems only fitting, as you also served as the chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee for three years (1995 through 1998) during the planning and initial phases of this ambitious campaign.

Perhaps your most lasting impact on the Mesa, however, can be felt every time a student, faculty, or staff member connects to the network known as CateNet. It is a technological masterpiece that allows everyone on the Mesa not only to communicate electronically with one another, but also to draw on the infinite resources available through the Internet. Thanks to you and the other visionary advocates of CateNet, this School is well placed to take advantage of the so-called "Information Superhighway" well into the coming century.

You have been generous to Cate School in every sense of the word, giving freely not only of your personal resources, but of your time, your energy, and, perhaps most importantly, your intelligence and creativity. It is appropriate that you always sign your Cate-related correspondence with the close "Servons," for truly your love of this School is reflected in the many ways you have served it.

For this reason, and many others, Cate School is pleased to present you, John D. Caldwell '59, with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1999.