

# Distinguished Alumni

## Distinguished Alumnus Award - 2001

### Dayton O. Hyde '43

Graduating from Cate in 1943, you embarked upon a journey of life and true adventure, drawing upon those principles and beliefs Curtis Wolsey Cate held in the highest esteem when he established the Santa Barbara School in 1910. Ruggedness, a love for the outdoors, an earnest respect for others and of one's surroundings, and a great understanding of the relationship between man, knowledge, and nature are all characteristics that Cate students, faculty and alumni such as you seek to embody. Your time on the Mesa combined with your insight and courage gave you the tools to contribute in such a remarkable and intuitive way to our society.

Carrying with you the same zeal for life and love of the outdoors that were first nurtured in your childhood on a ranch in Oregon, and then deepened during your career on the Cate Mesa, you have made an indelible mark in the history of an almost forgotten species by establishing The Institute of Range and the American Mustang, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to give freedom and a quality of life to America's wild horses. You also serve as president of Operation Stronghold, an organization that seeks to benefit both wildlife and the private landowner. You are a pioneer whose vision has profoundly altered a landscape and whose strength has saved an animal so intrinsic to America's persona. You displayed forthright courage and conviction when convincing the Bureau of Land Management to relinquish to you 1,000 mustangs desperately in need of greater range of their natural surroundings. And, as a result have preserved a history and educated a nation.

A rancher, photographer, essayist, and award-winning author of twelve books, including *Sandy*, *Yamsi* and *Don Coyote* - named by the American Library Association as one of the best books of the 1980s, you display an extraordinary respect and compassion for the land, and its creatures. Through your brave and honest work, you have inspired others to adhere to strong principles of conservation and unassailable ecology. Your shared wisdom through written words and bold actions have been said to "bring home the powerful fact that a human being is responsible to the land and is not its master".

You have set an extraordinary example for the entire Cate community, and have made clear the possibility of achieving success through strong dedication and belief in a mission so close to your heart. Possessing an invincible spirit similar to that from which Cate School derives its unique character, you have made paramount a quest to preserve the Western ideal. Each day, you share with present and past Cate students all that you have learned from a full life of work, struggle and passion, and in turn offer to each woman and man the chance to believe in themselves and their world.

Once referred to by Mr. Cate as "the nicest boy in the world", you have become a man, an adventurer, a renegade and a crusader who has made his life's mission that of living in

harmony with and supportive of all that exists in nature. For this undeniable strength of character, and pride in a vision so vital to a quickly changing country, Cate School is proud to present you, Dayton O. Hyde '43, with the Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2001.