

Distinguished Alumni

Distinguished Alumnus Award - 1983

Nelson Dorrington Jones '48

The hallmarks of your relationship with Cate School have been your incredible loyalty to this institution, your friendships with its headmasters, and your sensitive attention to the care and beauty of the School's physical plant. You have almost single-handedly molded this environment into a campus that knows few equals among academic institutions. It is a tribute to your dedication and commitment that Mr. Cate's School has such architectural integrity.

Your devotion to the Mesa began during your years as a student, when you served for two years as the work program coordinator, supervising and planning a maintenance program for the School's buildings and grounds. In 1947, you were awarded the bronze Soulé medal for efficient, tactful, and devoted direction of the work program. One year later, you were presented with the silver Soulé medal for your sustaining efforts. Your interest in architecture and construction led you to your current position as executive vice president of John S. Griffith & Company, where you design, oversee, and construct many landmark buildings throughout southern California.

You have always given freely of your time and talents, as a class agent, as a member of the alumni committee, and since 1969 as a member of the Board of Trustees. Your fellow trustees recognized your commitment and abilities and elected you vice president in 1972, president in 1975, and chairman from 1977 until 1980. As president and chairman you guided the operation of the board in a skillful manner, working to strengthen the communication between members of the board and the School's administration.

But it is in your ongoing role as chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee – a post which you have held since your appointment to the board – that you have truly left your mark on Cate School. You have spent countless hours overseeing the construction of buildings, and in 1981, you played a major role in the development of a comprehensive master plan for the School's future, providing the framework for the construction of the new dining room, science building, dormitory, and athletic fields. As in all that you do, this master plan reflects your commitment to the needs of the School today, as well as careful planning for its future.

Few alumni knew Mr. Cate as well as you did, and fewer still continue to embody the high standards which he held, his gentlemanly ways, and his devotion to the Mesa. For your loyalty and deep affection for this School, you have earned the respect of all Cate alumni, and the Cate School Alumni Association is pleased to honor you, Nelson Dorrington Jones '48, as the Distinguished Alumnus for 1983.