ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award 2013

Presented to

Martha Cowen Cutts '68

Martha Cowen Cutts, Class of 1968, we honor you today with the Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award. This award is presented to alumnae whose accomplishments in the field of education exemplify the values and virtues set forth by the College.

For you, teaching isn’t just a job; it’s a calling, and you have distinguished yourself nationally in the world of secondary education. Admired as a leader and innovator, you led the Washington Latin Public Charter School to its success as a school based in the classics but informed by contemporary life.

Starting as a German and Latin teacher, you quickly moved beyond the classroom to take leadership roles in independent secondary education. Among the institutions you have guided are the highly regarded National Cathedral School in DC and Philadelphia’s Agnes Irwin School. Your strong social conscience informed how you helped shape racially and economically diverse charter schools in the DC area, especially Washington Latin.

Modeled after the nation’s first public school, Boston Latin, the curriculum is centered in Greek and Roman traditions. Students take Latin for three years, and two years of either French, Chinese, or Arabic. As head of school, your vision has propelled Washington Latin to national prominence. While one-third of the students come from low-income families, every single one of the first class of graduating seniors was accepted to college. Washington Latin has become an educational model, and schools around the country are emulating it.

For your innovative leadership in education, the Alumnae Association is pleased to present you with the Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award on this, your forty-fifth reunion.