

# celebrating sisterhood

## 2016 ALUMNAE AWARD RECIPIENTS HONORED

In one of his final official acts as Hathaway Brown's Head of School, Bill Christ honored four outstanding alumnae with awards commemorating their positive influence and the example they've set for the entire HB community. This year's award recipients are Clara Taplin Rankin '34 – Head's Award for Exemplary Service; Adelaide Cobb Ward '51 – Distinguished Alumna; Nancy Swegler

Anthony '71 – Distinguished Alumna; and Katherine Barr Hollingsworth '96 – Alumnae Achievement Award. Mr. Christ acknowledged each of these women and presented them with tokens of the school's esteem at a special ceremony during Alumnae Weekend in May. Read more about their contributions below.

*profiles by Lisa Kroeger Murtha '88*

### HEAD'S AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

## Clara Taplin Rankin '34

Although she doesn't like to be in the spotlight, there's no one more deserving of recognition than Clara Taplin Rankin. In 1999, she received Hathaway Brown's Distinguished Alumnae Award for her work at numerous organizations in Greater Cleveland and beyond. A member of the HB class of 1934, she served for 25 years on the school's Board of Trustees, and she was founding president of the Alumnae Council and led the group from 1940 through 1942. In 2013, the Clara Taplin Rankin Chair for the Center for Global Citizenship was established at HB to honor her commitment to education and teaching excellence, which make profound differences in students' lives. In that same year, Clara was named a YWCA Woman of Achievement in recognition of her influential work with Hopewell, a therapeutic community she founded for adults with serious mental illness.

When it comes to her beloved alma mater, this Hathaway Brown "lifer" is a fount of



knowledge and memories. She is among the first of a long line of women in her family to be part of the great HB tradition. In fact, her great-granddaughter and namesake Clara Butler '16 is one of the school's most recent alumnae, having graduated in June. Even Clara's five sons are HBers – fathers and grandfathers of alumnae and current students. While she was a student, Clara was involved in everything from the Order of Willing Service to the Glee Club and the Senior Play. She graduated from Smith College and was married to the late Alfred M. Rankin Sr.

In addition to her enthusiastic support of HB, Clara zealously supports an array of other storied Cleveland institutions, including the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Cleveland Orchestra. And if that weren't enough to keep her busy, she's also an author, having written two travel books about China and the Galapagos Islands, along with a personal memoir. Not bad for someone who's 99 years young.

The Head's Award for Exemplary Service was established to honor as appropriate members of the HB community in recognition of their extraordinary dedication and commitment to the school, its mission, students, and alumnae. With humility and abiding appreciation, we offer our thanks to Clara with the Head's Award for Exemplary Service.

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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AWARD

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## Adelaide Cobb Ward '51

For more than 50 years, Addie Cobb Ward and her family were at the helm of an extremely successful – and sweet – American institution: The Russell Stover candy company. Although it was difficult to obtain a loan on the venture, she and her husband, Louis, took a risk in 1960 to purchase the company, and they built it into one of the largest chocolate manufacturers in North America, eventually selling to Lindt in 2014.



Addie was a Hathaway Brown boarding student for five years, joining the school community in eighth grade and continuing through senior year. She graduated in 1951 and went on to attend Briarcliff, then a women's college in New York. She met Louis at a summer cottage in northern

Michigan and they married in 1955, settling in Kansas City, where they raised their three children.

Outside of the business world, Addie has long been a supporter of causes that mean something to her. One of her more powerful

contributions was spurred by her unexpected quadruple bypass surgery. Noting that statistics show that women don't pay close enough attention to their bodies, she funded the Women's Heart Health Center at The University of Kansas Hospital's Center for Advanced Heart Care in 2012 to help reverse that trend. At HB, she also established an endowed scholarship to provide a deserving student with the gift of an HB education – something she might not otherwise have been able to experience. For that generosity, we could not be more grateful. We are pleased to recognize Addie as a Distinguished Alumna of Hathaway Brown School.

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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AWARD

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## Nancy Swegler Anthony '71

Nancy Swegler Anthony is a leader, an advocate, a champion, and a tireless contributor to an array of organizations around the country. A 1971 graduate of Hathaway Brown, Nancy has had an extraordinarily impactful career in finance, but as she moves toward retirement, she says she hopes to spend even more time focusing on the causes she supports in her charitable work.



With undergraduate and graduate degrees in economics and accountancy from Northwestern and DePaul universities, along with a CPA, Nancy spent her early career working for manufacturer Cutler Hammer (now Eaton Corporation) and in accounting firms. In 1983, her grandfather invited her to join the family business, Fernwood Advisors, an investment management firm

headquartered in Boston. She moved up the ranks in the company to become president of the firm. More than three decades into her tenure, she now is working on crafting a succession plan so that she may concentrate more fully on her charitable endeavors.

As the co-chair of her family foundation, Nancy invests a great deal of time working to better education and mental health services in the United States. She is especially interested in teen suicide prevention. In 2011, Nancy

was honored with the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry's Catcher in the Rye Humanitarian Award for her work. She also serves as a board member for the Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research.

Although she only attended HB for three years in grades 10 through 12, Nancy has maintained lifelong HB friendships and has kept an active interest in her alma mater. In 2012, she established the Anthony Family Fund for Aspire to support HB's signature summer program that provides educational and leadership opportunities for girls in Northeast Ohio who attend under-resourced schools. Nancy also has been a trusted advisor to the Head of School as a member of the HB Board of Trustees. We are grateful for Nancy's compassion and leadership, and we're honored to name her a Distinguished Alumna for 2016.

ALUMNAE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

# Katherine Barr Hollingsworth '96

In the 20 short years that have passed since she graduated from Hathaway Brown, Katherine Barr Hollingsworth has earned two degrees, worked in an array of large law firms, gotten married, given birth to two children, become a Legal Aid managing attorney, and earned a place as a board member for a non-profit organization that helps people save their homes.



In addition to her busy law career and raising her children, Alice and Duncan, Katherine also serves as a board member for an organization called ESOP – Empowering and Strengthening Ohio’s People. ESOP upholds the values Katherine demonstrates in her legal work: helping homeowners in distress get back into current mortgages and out of risk of foreclosure through education programs and other targeted initiatives. Katherine’s personal and professional endeavors and community engagement make her a wonderful role model to the school community and a worthy recipient of the Alumnae Achievement Award. 🙌

Katherine was an HB student from second through 12th grades. She graduated in 1996 and went on to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from Middlebury College, followed by a law degree from Georgetown University. She practiced law at large firms in Boston for several years, but when her husband, Adam – also a lawyer – took a job as an assistant U.S. Attorney in

Cleveland in 2010, she seized the opportunity to switch professional gears, pursuing a two-year fellowship in Legal Aid’s Consumer Practice Group. The fellowship gave her the chance to work directly with homeowners in the area of foreclosure defense, and Legal Aid asked her to stay on after the initial two years. She now holds the title of Managing Attorney.

*A regular contributor to HB, Lisa Kroeger Murtha '88 is a freelance writer living in Cincinnati.*

PHOTOS BY JASON MILLER

SAVE THE DATE!



# RISING

*embracing challenges, seizing opportunities*

# BOLDLY

Alumnae Weekend  
MAY 19–20, 2017

*All Class Years Welcome!*

