

Dinner to Honor Award Recipients

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

6 p.m.

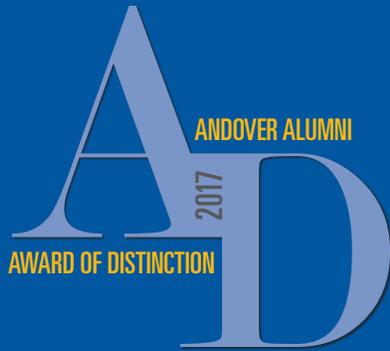
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Andover Alumni Award of Distinction Presentations

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

10:50 a.m. • All-School Meeting

Cochran Chapel



Welcome to the sixth annual celebration of the esteemed recipients of the Andover Alumni Award of Distinction. This award recognizes and honors alumni of Phillips Academy and Abbot Academy who have served with distinction and exhibited leadership in their fields of endeavor. It also strives to connect current students with these inspirational role models through a schoolwide presentation and classroom discussions.

Wallace M. Alston '83, Dorothy L. Cheney '68, George Bundy Smith '55, P'83, and Genevieve Young '48 are the recipients of the 2017 Andover Alumni Award of Distinction. These four alumni embody the values of the Andover-Abbot community and have had—and continue to have—a positive impact on diverse peoples and places, society, and, ultimately, our world.

Award recipients are chosen by the Andover Alumni Award of Distinction Committee (see back cover) of the Alumni Council upon nomination by alumni. Once a candidate is nominated, his or her nomination remains on file in the Office of Alumni Engagement for annual review. Please visit www.andover.edu/alumni/recognition/awardofdistinction for a nomination form.

Andover Alumni Award of Distinction

2016

Constance Laurence Brinckerhoff '59

Research Pioneer, Educator

Soiya Gecaga '92

Educator, Human Rights Advocate

Thomas J. Hudner Jr. '43

Medal of Honor Recipient, Naval Aviator

David G. Nathan '47

Physician, Educator, National Medal of Science Recipient

2015

Julia Altagracia Alvarez '67

Author, Educator, Humanitarian

Maro Chermayeff '80

Filmmaker, Educator, Humanitarian

Tracy Kidder '63

Literary Journalist, Pulitzer Prize–Winning Author

Marvin L. Minsky '45 *(deceased)*

Cognitive Scientist, Inventor, Educator

2014

Clemency Chase Coggins '51

Art Historian, Maya Scholar, Educator

John T. Darnton '60

Award-Winning Journalist, Foreign Correspondent, Author

Susan Goodwillie Stedman '59

Civil Rights Activist, Educator, Author

2013

Hafsat O. Abiola '92

Human Rights Advocate, Civil Rights and Democracy Activist

George M. Church '72

Geneticist, Molecular Engineer, Chemist, Research Pioneer

Frank P. Stella '54

Painter, Printmaker, Sculptor, Author, Innovator

2012

George H.W. Bush '42

U.S. President, Ambassador, Aviator, Athlete

Wendy T. Ewald '69

Photographer, Educator, Cultural Explorer, Researcher

William S. Knowles '35 *(deceased)*

Nobel Prize–Winning Chemist, Mathematician, Medical Innovator

Stacy A. Schiff '78

Pulitzer Prize–Winning Biographer, Guggenheim Fellow

Peter M. Sellars '75

Visionary Opera and Theatre Director, MacArthur Fellow

Wallace M. Alston '83



Filmmaker
Social Justice Activist
Educator



Pot Pourri, 1983

Max Alston, senior vice president at Auburn Seminary in New York City, works to equip faith leaders to stand for justice. An award-winning documentary filmmaker, Alston founded Auburn Media in 2002 and has since served as its director. He has innovated a range of programs related to media and religious media training for more than 6,000 faith leaders—including many of the most influential faith leaders of our day—on a wide range of justice issues.

Alston's films include *Love Free or Die* (PBS 2012), *Hard Road Home* (PBS 2008), *The Killer Within* (Discovery Films 2006), *Questioning Faith* (HBO 2002), and *Family Name* (PBS 1998). *Love Free or Die*, a feature film about openly gay bishop Gene Robinson and the international firestorm sparked by his consecration, premiered and won the Special Jury Prize for an Agent of Change at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. It aired nationally on PBS's Independent Lens series. *Family Name*, Alston's first film, is a personal documentary about coming to terms with his family's slave-owning past. Alston's willingness to confront whatever ugly truth might manifest itself about his forebears makes for an intimate look at American history. *Family Name* premiered in 1997 at Sundance, where it won the Freedom of Expression Award, and later aired on PBS's *POV*.

Presented with the Gotham Open Palm Award for outstanding directorial debut, Alston has received Emmy Award nominations for three of his films. He has appeared widely in various media, including on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and *The Today Show* and in the *New York Times*.

A graduate of Union Theological Seminary, he comes from a long line of ministers in the American South and grew up exposed to the power of religion, politics, and the media as charismatic leaders on the Left and Right shaped society and history for generations to come.

Alston also serves as Auburn Seminary's vice president for strategy, engagement, and media and directs a program that equips leaders of faith and moral courage to speak out for justice through the media.

Dorothy L. Cheney '68



Biologist
Research Pioneer
Educator



The Circle, 1968

For more than four decades, Dorothy Cheney's research has focused on the communication and social behavior of non-human primates. Cheney and husband Robert Seyfarth's research has been conducted on wild baboons in the Okavango Delta, Botswana. This work is documented in the couple's book *Baboon Metaphysics* (2007) as well as in many scientific articles.

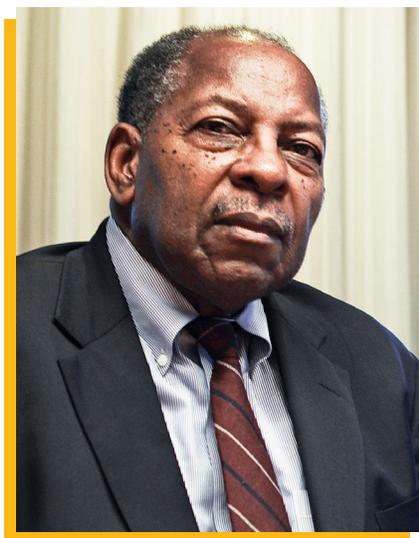
Cheney and her husband earned doctoral degrees from the Sub-Department of Animal Behavior at the University of Cambridge. It was under Robert Hinde, an eminent animal behaviorist at the university, that they first became acquainted with baboons. "We were really lucky to get in at the ground level, because no one had really focused in on individual primates' social behavior," says Cheney. "The first person to do this was Jane Goodall, and a lot of scientists criticized her for being overly anthropomorphic and trying to give her study subjects personality. Of course, it turned out she was right."

After working at Rockefeller University and UCLA, Cheney and Seyfarth moved to the University of Pennsylvania in 1986, where Cheney is currently a professor of biology. In addition, Cheney conducted research on mountain gorillas in Rwanda and vervet monkeys in Amboseli National Park in Kenya. These findings are described in an earlier book, *How Monkeys See the World*.

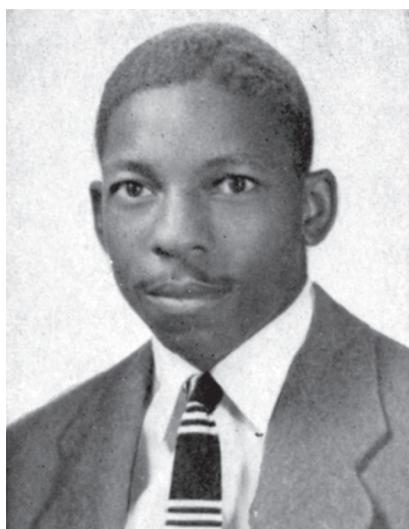
Cheney has investigated how monkeys perceive and classify their vocalizations and explored kin recognition, reciprocity, and monkeys' knowledge about each others' behavior and social relationships. In all of these ventures, Cheney has focused on several questions that are central to debates about the evolution of the human mind: Why are humans and non-human primates so extremely social? What is the adaptive value of sociality? Why are our brains so highly attuned to what other individuals are doing and thinking?

Among Cheney's numerous honors: In 2016, she received the Distinguished Primatologist Award from the American Society of Primatologists and the Distinguished Animal Behaviorist Award from the Animal Behavior Society. In 2013, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1999, and in 2015 she was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences—one of the highest honors a scientist can receive—in recognition of her distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

George Bundy Smith '55



Freedom Rider
Civil Rights Activist
Judge



Pot Pourri, 1955

Known for his legal work and activism on behalf of civil rights, Judge George Bundy Smith passed away on August 5, 2017. Smith served on the New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, for 14 years. Appointed in 1992, Smith—the third black judge to serve on the court—authored the 2004 decision that effectively ended the death penalty in New York.

Raised in segregated Washington, D.C., Smith attended Phillips Academy on a scholarship—and was the only black student in his class. He earned a BA degree in history from Yale University in 1959, later graduating from Yale Law School (along with his twin sister, Inez). He earned master's and doctoral degrees from New York University.

At the urging of Rev. William Sloane Coffin Jr. '42, Yale University's chaplain, Smith—still in law school—became part of the first Freedom Ride, which departed from Washington, D.C., on May 4, 1961, and was scheduled to arrive in New Orleans. The black and white Freedom Riders were trying to compel enforcement of the U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing segregated transportation and help end the discriminatory practice of separate seating on buses and in bus stations. Smith was one of about 10 Freedom Riders arrested when they ordered coffee at a whites-only lunch counter at a bus terminal in Montgomery, Alabama.

After law school, Smith joined the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and helped civil rights lawyer Constance Baker Motley draft briefs for student James Meredith's successful challenge to the University of Mississippi's refusal to admit black students. He was appointed to the New York Civil Court in 1975 and served as a New York Supreme Court judge from 1980 to 1986 before joining the Appellate Division.

Smith's numerous awards and honors include an honorary doctor of law degree from Fordham Law School; the Hon. William Brennan Award for Outstanding Jurist, presented by the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; and the Spirit of Excellence Award from the American Bar Association's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity. A former Andover trustee, Smith received the Academy's Claude Moore Fuess Award in 1985.

Smith's family will accept the Andover Alumni Award of Distinction on his behalf.

Genevieve Young '48



Literacy Advocate

Editor

Philanthropist

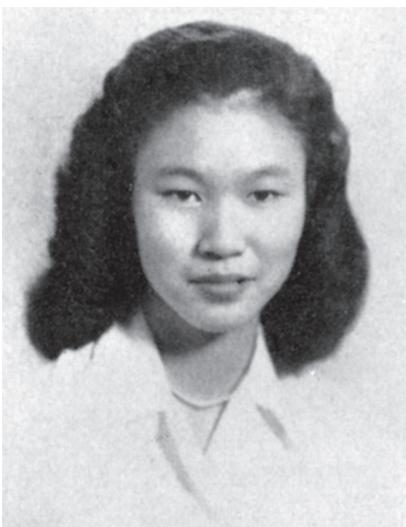
Genevieve Young was born in Geneva, Switzerland. As a child she lived in London, Paris, Shanghai, and Manila, moving frequently as required by her father's career as a Chinese diplomat. He was illegally executed by the Japanese army shortly after Pearl Harbor.

Arriving in the United States from the Philippines in the spring of 1945 with her mother and sisters, Young entered Abbot Academy on a full scholarship that fall. She completed her Abbot education in three years and attended Wellesley College, graduating with a degree in political science in 1952. A lifelong bookworm, her love of books and reading was fostered and developed during her school years.

Young landed her first post-college job at publishing company Harper & Brothers as a stenographer, although she could neither type nor take shorthand; she eventually became the managing editor. She then left to become executive editor and, in time, vice president at J.B. Lippincott company. Since then, Young has served as senior editor at Little, Brown and Company, editor in chief of The Literary Guild of America, and vice president and editorial director of Bantam Books.

Aside from her publishing duties, Young taught as an adjunct professor at the Center for Publishing at New York University. She has been a literacy tutor and has volunteered for many associations, including the Youth Counseling League and the Women's Media Group, serving as board president for both. In addition, Young received the Distinguished Achievement Award from Wellesley College and the Matrix Award from Women in Communications.

A former Andover trustee, Young is currently on the boards of the Gordon Parks Foundation and FJK Dance, a modern dance company. She enjoys the theater, ballroom dancing, playing bridge, and spending time with her large family, which includes her sister, Shirley Young '51. And, of course, she still loves reading.



The Circle, 1948



**Andover Alumni Award
of Distinction Committee**

Christopher Auguste '76, P'09, '12

Emily Bernstein '86, P'21

Susan Donahue '73, P'05, '08, *chair*

Paul Hochman '82

Nobuhisa Ishizuka '78, P'08, '11

Anthea Letsou '77

Johnson Lightfoote '69

Bonnie Oliva '00

Michael Schmertzler '70, P'05, '07, *vice chair*



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