

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

ELIZABETH TOPHAM KENNAN AWARD 2013

PRESENTED TO



Rita Rothenberg Calvo '63

RITA ROTHENBERG CALVO, CLASS OF 1963, 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.

Since you started teaching in 1969, you have inspired and mentored students in Cornell University's departments of molecular biology and genetics and biochemistry. You earned numerous awards for outstanding teaching, and a colleague called you "possibly the greatest agent for change I have encountered in my thirty-one years on the Cornell faculty."

That would be enough for most, but you have also improved science teaching in public schools and helped the public to understand the study of genetics and its social implications.

In 1989, you cofounded the Cornell Institute for Biology Teachers, which informed high school instructors about new developments in biology and new methods of sharing this information with students. During your time as the Institute's director, more than eighty different lab programs were created and made available to teachers around the world. Later, you developed a similar program for physics teachers.

Somehow you also found time to edit and review many high school and college textbooks, and to speak with community groups on topics such as genetic testing and screening, genetics and behavior, and DNA fingerprinting.

For your outstanding professional career; your mentorship of students, colleagues, and teachers; service to your profession; and your determination to continue teaching after your official retirement; the Alumnae Association is pleased to present you with the Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award on this, your fiftieth reunion.

CYNTHIA L. REED '80
PRESIDENT
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

JANE E. ZACHARY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE