

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

# ALUMNAE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2013

PRESENTED TO



*Muriel T. Davisson-Fahey '63*

**MURIEL T. DAVISSON-FAHEY, CLASS OF 1963**, we honor you today with the Alumnae Achievement Award. It is presented to alumnae whose accomplishments and service to society exemplify the values and virtues set forth by the College.

You became fascinated with genetics as an MHC undergraduate, and the long and distinguished career that followed changed the face of genetics research. Curiosity about how abnormalities in chromosomes affect development led you to develop a path-breaking way to model Down syndrome using mice.

Finding a mouse with precisely the right characteristics for this research took years of perseverance, but finally you achieved success. Your mouse model was a significant scientific advance. It was the first that could be used to investigate learning and memory in Down syndrome, a chromosomal abnormality linked to mental retardation. The National Down Syndrome Society named you “researcher of the year” in 2002 for this work.

And—without regard for personal acclaim—you made your mouse model available to scientists everywhere. From your base at Jackson Laboratory, mutant mice for research have since been distributed to virtually every biomedical research organization in the world. You also shared your work in well over 200 research papers and forty-four book chapters.

For the invaluable impact your work has had on science and society, and for your tenacity, skill, work ethic, and spirit of service, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you, on your fiftieth reunion, with the Achievement Award.

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

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