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**2016 Alumna of the Year Deborah Masters '69 to Speak at Commencement**

WORMLEYSBURG, PA – Harrisburg Academy's 2016 Alumna of the Year, Deborah Masters '69, will be the featured Commencement speaker at the Class of 2016 graduation ceremony on Friday, June 10. Masters is a sculptor who has shown and completed pieces all over the world, including New York state; central Pennsylvania; New Orleans, Louisiana; Yokohama, Japan; and Turin, Italy. She has produced permanent public art installations in John F. Kennedy airport in New York City — for which she received the award for Best Public Art in 2001; Coney Island's Ocean Parkway Viaduct — for which April 30, the day the project was unveiled, was designated Deborah Master's Day by the Brooklyn Borough president; and Reservoir Park in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



Photo credit: Jeff Bachner for New York Daily News

Masters spent a large part of her professional career working in environmental law and conservation. Her work has focused on removing toxins from the environment, particularly in Greenpoint and Williamsburg, Brooklyn. She won the Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention for removing all volatile organic compounds (VOCs) at a toxic release inventory facility in Williamsburg, and she helped organize the Mobil Oil lawsuit, from which the Greenpoint community was recently awarded \$25 million.

She has also found ways to combine her two passions — art and environmental conservation — most recently working on the Green Eggs Wetland Project, a storm water garden in Greenpoint. Additionally, after moving to upstate New York, where she now lives with her husband, Geoffrey Wilcox, she began a project focusing on pond ecology. She has been able to maintain a pure eco-system in a pond without the use of chemicals, using only purifying vegetation, a fountain, and a floating sculpture.

After graduating from Harrisburg Academy, Masters earned a bachelor's degree of fine arts from Bryn Mawr College, then went on to study for three years at the New York Studio School.

All members of the Academy Community are invited the 2016 Commencement on Friday, June 10 at 3 p.m. at Messiah College's Parmer Hall.

Established in 1784, Harrisburg Academy is the 17th oldest non-public school in the nation and Harrisburg's only independent school. Our coed, diverse school community inspires students from age three through 12<sup>th</sup> grade by providing an academically challenging and globally minded liberal arts education focused on dynamic classroom experiences, strong student outcomes, and a commitment to character development. The Academy proudly stands as the first school in the greater Harrisburg area to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and merit scholarship.

For more information about Harrisburg Academy please visit our website or contact Mary S. Campbell at 717-763-7811 or via email at [campbell.m@harrisburgacademy.org](mailto:campbell.m@harrisburgacademy.org).

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