



## ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Presented to*  
Helga Jahncke Hernes '61



HELGA JAHNCKE HERNES, class of 1961, we honor you today with the Alumnae Achievement Award. This award is presented to alumnae whose achievements and service to society exemplify the values and virtues set forth by the college.

Born in Germany, you traveled to the United States in 1956 as an intrepid high school exchange student. Two years later, you returned to enroll at Mount Holyoke, where you majored in political science. In 1970, you earned a Ph.D. in political science at Johns Hopkins University; your dissertation was on the concept of community in modern theories of international law.

That same year, you began teaching comparative politics at the University of Bergen in Norway. In 1980, you became research director at the Norwegian Institute for Social Research. You remained there until your 1988 appointment as state secretary in the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 1993, you assumed the role of executive director of the Center for International Climate and Energy Research while also teaching political science at the University of Oslo. In 1996, you were appointed special advisor for Norway's peacekeeping operations. In 1998, you returned to the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and served for four years as ambassador to Austria, Slovakia, and the UN. Between 2002 and 2004, you were Norway's ambassador to Switzerland and the Holy See. Your outstanding service was recognized both in 1999—when you were decorated as a Knight of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit—and in 2002, when you were promoted to Commander of the Order.

Since your retirement from the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2004, you have contributed your expertise as senior adviser at the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo. You also chair the Norwegian Parliamentary Intelligence Oversight Committee, the board that supervises Norway's Police Security Service, Defense Security Staff, and Intelligence Service. Your scholarship continues and in 2010, the United States Institute for Peace published *Women and War: Power and Protection in the 21st Century*, which you coedited. The book has been hailed as a critical text for "every mediator, peacekeeper, and policymaker working in the international peace and conflict arena."

Your contributions to the interests of Norway and the international community are immeasurable. Your research in the areas of peacekeeping, peaceful resolution of conflicts, and the status of women is cited worldwide. Truly, your life and work have embodied the bold, pioneering spirit of Mary Lyon.

In recognition of your extraordinary careers as a diplomat and scholar, the Alumnae Association is proud 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