

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

# ALUMNAE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2017

PRESENTED TO



*Tahmima Anam '97*

**TAHMIMA ANAM, CLASS OF 1997**, the Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College is pleased to honor you with the Alumnae Achievement Award. This award is presented to alumnae whose accomplishments and service to society exemplify the values and virtues set forth by the College.

Tahmima, as a global citizen and accomplished author, you give readers a glimpse into the lives and cultures of others, providing a window into another world. Born in Bangladesh into a family well known for its literary achievements, your mission has been to recount the story of your parents' generation for a new audience. As a student at Mount Holyoke, you knew you wanted to become a writer but hadn't yet figured out how to achieve this goal. After graduation, you went on to receive your doctorate in anthropology from Harvard. After completing your thesis, an oral history project on the Bangladesh war, you decided that a novel would, in your own words, "more faithfully capture the memory than an academic book." Published in 2007, your debut novel, *A Golden Age*, did just that, and it was immediately praised for its breadth and unique point of view, garnering a number of major awards, including the 2008 Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best First Book.

You have published two more equally successful novels, *The Good Muslim* and *The Bones of Grace*, completing the much-praised Bangladesh trilogy following one family over three generations and providing a portrait of both a family and a nation struggling to find its way amid war and its aftermath. Through your literary work, you have earned a reputation as one of the United Kingdom's most talented young novelists. You were chosen by *Granta* literary magazine as a Best Young Novelist, and in 2012 the *Telegraph* newspaper stated that your work has made you "one of our most important novelists."

Tahmima, for your accomplishments, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you with the Alumnae Achievement Award on this, your twentieth reunion.

MARCIA BRUMIT KROPP '67  
PRESIDENT  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

NANCY BELLOWS PEREZ '76  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE