

2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2019, 10:15 a.m.

Chapin Auditorium, Mary E. Woolley Hall

WELCOME (Maria Mossaides '73)

Maria: Good morning everyone and welcome to the 147th Alumnae Association Annual Meeting, especially the graduating seniors, Class of 2019! I am Maria Mossaides, class of 1973, and president of the Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College. Alumnae—look what a remarkable group of you are, here to re-connect with each other and the College.

This weekend, you will have the opportunity to hear about the state of the College and to visit your favorite places on campus, as well as some new places. We are very excited that the Community Center is open and that you will all be enjoying class meals and other events in this dynamic new space.

While you are on campus this weekend, you will no doubt share your news and accomplishments with one another—and hopefully with the Alumnae Association as well. All of you here today, and the thousands of other alumnae worldwide, continue to do Mount Holyoke proud—in your local communities, in your families, on the national stage, and in the world.

I am honored to represent you, along with hundreds of volunteers and our Board of Directors, who I would now like to welcome.

Past and present board members, please stand.

Let's also welcome past and present members of the Mount Holyoke Board of Trustees.

Thank you for your service.

Please also welcome Mount Holyoke College President Sonya Stephens.

And Alumnae Association Executive Director Nancy Bellows Perez, class of 1976, and Vice President for Advancement, Kassandra Jolley.

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to the 10 alumnae from the class of 1949, here for their 70th reunion! And greetings to the class of 2017, back for their first reunion. And, finally, I would like to welcome their sister class, the newest alumnae to our ranks, the members of the class of 2019!

I now have the pleasure of introducing Mount Holyoke President Sonya Stephens. An expert in 19th-century French literature, Sonya arrived at Mount Holyoke in 2013 as vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty. Working closely with divisions across the College and with the Five College Consortium, she led efforts to enhance the reputation of Mount Holyoke and to increase support for faculty research and curricular innovation.

Her tenure at Mount Holyoke is girded by her ardent belief in the value of a women’s college and a liberal arts education. She is dedicated to the students, and to all of you, our alumnae. In fact, the class of 1955 named her an honorary member of their class!

Please join me now in welcoming to the podium President of Mount Holyoke College, Sonya Stephens.

Sonya: Thank you, Maria.

I am so pleased to welcome you home to Mount Holyoke!

Over the last few weeks, I have seen the graduating seniors taking in the places that they love — one last walk, one last selfie. And as their families started to arrive, I felt the urgency they showed of capturing for posterity this moment, in their cameras, and in their hearts and memories. Some visitors are discovering this beautiful campus for the very first time, in all its spring glory, and it seems as if the trees are blossoming just for them — and for your return to this beloved campus, with your own memories and present excitement.

I take great pleasure and pride, as I am sure you do, in the beauty of Mount Holyoke, and I am in awe of, and deeply grateful for, all the hard work that has been done to make it naturally perfect and intentionally embracing for you.

When you return to this very special place and come together with friends, you bring new energy and history to these grounds we all love. You come from near and far, in both time and place, and we are so glad to have you here with us in celebration of your reunion, and as representatives of the great lineage of accomplishment — sometimes of generations within the same family — that is Mount Holyoke’s gift to the world.

Mount Holyoke may not be *exactly* the same as it was when you were here as a student, or even here last, but I hope you know that it is adapting to the challenges of this century and the needs and interests of our students, even as it holds true to the age-old values of a liberal education and the academic excellence that shaped your futures. The rise in the rankings and the positive financial outlook, the outstanding faculty, the largest class and yield in Mount Holyoke’s history last year, and the significant gains in selectivity this year, are matched with a commitment to equity, access, and affordability that build on Mount Holyoke’s reputation and reach. Times change, and so must we, but there is something enriching and rewarding when past meets present and we connect across decades and shared experience.

I know that for me seeing something anew, or remembering how something was, creates a powerful connection to people and to places past. I often find myself walking the campus, imagining the early days of Mount Holyoke, or the experiences of previous generations conjured from those earliest black and white photographs, or from the alumnae memory books, in the Archives. I have come to know Mount Holyoke differently through your stories, and through the class histories, which is another cherished tradition of ours — and the very heart of this Annual Meeting.

You have covered some ground together, over many years. And as you walk these paths again, my hope for each of you is that you will find connection to the College, and to each other, in ways that reignite in you memories and excitement, as well as the joy and intellectual stimulation of this community.

It is both through shared experience, and through this powerful sense of the past in the form of voluntary and involuntary memory, that we find connection. The power of our senses, and their ability to evoke memory are the sensual complement to the yearbooks and other memorabilia that you set out for browsing. And I hope that with each return, and on this weekend, you will layer those experiences and memories with more of them, in a present as enriching as the past, suggested in the fronds of the library's Chihuly or in a tree in bloom, noticed for the first time. May you also see some of this anew, and find new meaning in Mount Holyoke and in your relationship to it.

For there is no place like it. The rhythms and harmony of Mount Holyoke, its traditions and treasures, are what bind us all to it.

An alumna once said to me “Mount Holyoke seeps into your blood and is something you never get over.” I believe that to be true. I hope that you, that I, never get over Mount Holyoke. I hope that every time you hear a bell ring your heart skips a beat the way it did on Mountain Day. I hope that a cookie still evokes M&Cs for you, and that warm paint on an Adirondack chair can still summon lazy hours on Skinner Green. And that a smell or a sound, banal or special, will always call you back to the past, and to Mount Holyoke.

While I do not have the honor of being an alumna of Mount Holyoke, it is a special privilege to work with you and for this exceptional College. You are the living embodiment of the power of a Mount Holyoke experience, and you are our ambassadors to the wider world. You are our strongest advocates, spreading the word in your communities and workplaces about just how remarkable Mount Holyoke is.

So thank you — for your loyalty and your presence here today, for who you are, for all that you have done, for what you represent for Mount Holyoke and each other, and for your continued commitment to, and support of the College.

I wish you the most joyous of celebrations on campus and look forward to spending time with you throughout the weekend

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING (Maria Mossaides)

Thank you, Sonya. Now, we begin the business portion of this meeting. The minutes of last year’s annual meeting have been posted in the New York Room for your review.

May I have a motion for their acceptance? Do I hear a second to the motion?
(Pause) Those in favor of accepting the minutes as posted? (Pause) Those against?
Anyone abstain? Thank you.

The chair of the Alumnae Association's Nominating Committee **Danetta Beaushaw**, class of 1988, will present the Nominating Committee's Report.

Danetta: Thank you, Maria. A notice about recommended bylaws updates and the slate of new board and committee members was published in the *April Laurel Chain* newsletter, and the full and updated text of both is available online.

I would like to entertain a motion to accept the bylaws as presented... (Pause)

Do I hear a second to the motion? (Pause)

Those in favor of accepting the bylaws? (Pause)

Those against? Those abstaining? Motion is accepted.

I would like to entertain a motion to accept the slate as presented... (Pause)

Do I hear a second to the motion? (Pause)

Those in favor of accepting the slate? (Pause)

Those against? Those abstaining? Motion is accepted.

Maria: Thank you, Danetta.

RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS (Maria Mossaides)

Maria: I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the newly elected alumnae leaders. Please stand if you currently volunteer as a class officer, club officer, class agent, admissions rep or for the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, or if you serve on any Alumnae Association or College committees.

It is because of you that the Mount Holyoke experience lives on. Those of you who have not yet volunteered, or who have taken a break, please know that we would love to have you visit the Alumnae Association website or speak to one of your class officers or me to learn more about how to get involved.

READING OF CLASS HISTORIES (Maria Mossaides)

Maria: We now start the part of the program that is a favorite for many of us, the reading of class histories. Throughout the meeting we will invite presidents from two different classes to offer us a perspective on the similarities among and differences between generations of Mount Holyoke graduates.

We will begin with two classes that span 50 years of Mount Holyoke tradition—classes that have gotten to know each other over the past few years and many of whom met face-to-face at our Welcome Ceremony for New Alumnae on Thursday, during which members of the 50th reunion class bestowed our newest alumnae with beautiful yellow silk scarves. Class of 1969 and class of 2019, please step to the podium on the floor.

[Readers step to podium on the floor and introduce themselves.]

1969 & 2019

Marilyn Coburn Kincaid '69

Valerie Amy Montesino '19

When we arrived on campus:

When we arrived on campus in the fall of 1965, the Beatles were popular; no one had yet landed on the moon, but NASA was in full pursuit of that goal; Martin Luther King led the fight for civil rights, and Hampshire College was still under construction.

In 2015, when we arrived on campus, we battled swarms of bees and our fellow classmates to eat lunch on Skinner Green in the midst of Move-In Day. We made friends at long tables in the Prospect dining hall, and gossiped over a smoothie from Uncommon Grounds. We checked YikYak way more than we checked our Blanch mailboxes, and we made sure all of our friends knew that spicy fries weren't *actually* spicy.

During our time on campus we experienced these historical international and domestic events.

We protested the war in Vietnam, mourned loss of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, and experienced the opportunities of Women's Lib

We marched for Black Lives Matter, and demanded a sanctuary campus. We witnessed the rise of the #MeToo movement. We held vigils for victims of violence, and called for divestment. Marijuana was legalized in Massachusetts.

Many of us turned 21, the minimum voting age, by the time of the presidential election in November 1968, our senior year, and thus were able to vote for the first time. We stayed up late to watch the returns in the Nixon-Humphrey presidential election.

We sat awake with our friends in common rooms to watch the 45th presidential election. We also saw the largest voter turnout in a century in the 2018 election, and elected more minority leaders into office than ever before.

This is how we spent our free time on campus:

We hung out at the original CI (College Inn) where we drank coffee served in those thick china mugs. We also loved the Odyssey Bookshop, where books were plentiful, Romeo Grenier was welcoming, and we could waste study time by sitting in the store and reading those wonderful books!

We spent all our money at IYA, and went to cultural nights, concerts, and Chapin parties. We sled down the Delles hill, and roasted marshmallows on the lantern green. We ate more mozz sticks at late night than we are willing to admit. We climbed the mountain in the fall, marveled at the first snow in winter (and groaned at the last), and celebrated spring on blankets on Skinner Green.

We experienced the beginning of Four-College Cooperation, with shuttle buses that ran fitfully, and sometimes even on time. Hampshire College, the fifth college of that consortium, was still under construction, of course.

We studied the Pioneer Valley Transport Authority bus schedule harder than any of our class notes.

Yet we know, some things don't change. We received a great education, both in and out of the classroom, and made lifelong friends. All of these helped make us the women we are today. Thank you to Mount Holyoke, our Alma Mater!

RECOGNITION OF DONORS AND ADVANCEMENT AWARDS

Maria: I would now like to introduce Vice President for Advancement, Kassandra Jolley

Kassandra: Greetings! I am truly delighted to be with you today and to welcome you all home.

This morning, the Laurel Chain linked generations of remarkable Mount Holyoke graduates — and graduates to be — connecting us all the way back to Mary Lyon, who asked alumnae to carry the vision and the commitment to “tend what is within these gates, and all that lies beyond them.”

Together, alumnae, your association and the College act to ensure, absolutely, that Mount Holyoke students are able to achieve their full potential, and to bring the gifts that have been nurtured and cultivated here at Mount Holyoke into the world.

As the graduate of both a women’s college — Simmons College — and a girls’ high school, I too have had the great privilege of a transformational experience — of being among peers and mentors who, on so many occasions, saw more potential, intellectual beauty, and humane gifts in me than I saw in myself.

They helped me nurture an independent voice and earn an independent livelihood. And in my professional role, I have the unique responsibility and joy of facilitating your commitment in action to the mission of Mount Holyoke.

So today, on behalf of the College and, most importantly, on behalf of the students who benefit from your gifts, I thank you for all that you do for Mount Holyoke and invite you to watch a short video presentation that reaffirms all that you make possible.

Now, I know you are all eager to hear about the results of your hard work, and it has been another robust year in terms of alumnae support.

It’s my pleasure to share that, to date this fiscal year, 8,543 alumnae, parents, and friends have made gifts to the College totaling \$11.5 million. Reunion classes have demonstrated their loyal support with gifts totaling \$3.6 million. And of special importance are gifts to The Mount Holyoke Fund which support the areas of greatest need and potential each and every year.

To date, 7,740 alumnae have joined together to invest \$6.4 million and counting in The Mount Holyoke Fund, all in support of current students.

To be sure, how much alumnae give is equally important to the fact that we give to our alma mater consistently— each and every year. The Laurel Chain Society honors those donors who, year after year, make gifts of any amount — to any fund — to support the College. We are grateful to all of you whose consistent support has been, and will continue to be, critical to advancing our mission.

Many of you here today are members of the Mary Lyon Society. Thank you. This important philanthropic group honors alumnae and friends who are following in Mary Lyon’s footsteps by making the College a part of their legacy through their estate or by creating a life income gift. Please help me to celebrate the Mary Lyon Society’s 45th anniversary and the 1,516 alumnae and friends whose gifts will provide opportunities for future generations.

I understand that the incredible contributions of individual class fund raising efforts will be celebrated at class dinners or meetings this weekend, but let me say here that we are immensely grateful to each and every one of you who chooses to include Mount Holyoke in your philanthropic priorities.

This year, to recognize and honor the support that we receive from our reunion classes, we have stationed donor honor rolls in each class headquarters and we have shared ribbons — that many of you are proudly wearing this morning — to indicate your membership in our three giving societies. Gold ribbons recognize our Cornerstone Society members, who have made a leadership level gift to the

college this year. Green ribbons recognize our Laurel Chain Society members, who support the College each and every year.

And finally, blue ribbons recognize our Mary Lyon Society members.

And there is a special place in our hearts for those of you who step forward not only with your own gifts, but who agree to take on the joyful but hard work of encouraging others to invest, so allow me to thank all of our volunteers — head class agents, class agents and gift committees in particular — as well.

While we are all gathered here now, we must take the opportunity to honor and recognize the remarkable 50th Reunion Class of 1969, whose affection, dedication and respect for Mount Holyoke is palpable and tangible. The 50th reunion gift effort is a labor of love sustained by its own large, enthusiastic and seemingly tireless group of volunteers.

Leadership matters. So it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the great Class of 1969 50th Reunion Gift Committee.

Would the entire 50th Reunion Gift Committee please stand?

It is now my great pleasure to ask **Julie Van Camp**, co-chair of the 50th Reunion Gift Committee, to come forward to present your class's gift to Mount Holyoke.

As we welcome Julie to the podium, I would also like to specially recognize **Marcia Coleman**, Julie's co-chair of the 50th Reunion Gift Committee. While Marcia could

not be with us on campus this weekend, we would like to honor and thank both her and Julie for their excellent leadership.

Thank you to the wonderful class of 1969, and thank you again to **Julie Van Camp** and **Marcia Coleman** for your exemplary leadership of your 50th Reunion Gift Committee.

Now to present our Reunion awards. These accolades have been earned for fundraising achievements this year and for gains made in the years since your last Reunion in 2014.

Descriptions of these awards are in your programs and on screen. The award flowers and bowls displayed here will be brought to the winning class's headquarters at the conclusion of this meeting.

The Sphinx, Pegasus, and Lion awards recognize notable achievements in class participation and exemplary support of The Mount Holyoke Fund and Mount Holyoke College. Congratulations to the inspirational class of 1969, winners of the Sphinx, Pegasus and Lion awards. We gratefully acknowledge every alumna in the class of 1969 for such generous and loyal support of Mount Holyoke.

Next, it is my pleasure to present the Griffin award, which recognizes the class with the highest percentage of consistent donors. The Award this year goes to the class of 1949. 69% of the Class of 1949 are members of the Laurel Chain Society! We thank you for 70 years of consistent and loyal support!

And finally, I would also like to add a special thank-you and congratulations to the class of 1979 for setting a new 40th Reunion Gift record. The class has raised more than \$500,000 for The Mount Holyoke Fund this fiscal year and is the first 40th Reunion class to ever raise more than half a million dollars. Congratulations 1979!

Thank you for the opportunity to recognize your philanthropic investments in Mount Holyoke and to serve your incredible alma mater.

READING OF CLASS HISTORIES (**Maria Mossaides**)

Maria: Thank you, Kassandra. I now present the class of 1949 and 1979.

1949

By Nancy Cousins Wilder, Class President

The class of 1949, with 289 members, entered in September 1945 right after World War II had ended in August, so we were full of optimism. We were assigned, as freshmen, to the three freshman dorms, Pearsons, Brigham and Porter. A small group of juniors from our sister class greeted us warmly, and we were happy to find they would live in our dorms to help us get oriented to college life.

Gracious living was the style in those days. We had all our meals in our dorm dining rooms with cubbyholed white cloth napkins and fellow students, earning money for college expenses, serving us.. Wednesday and Sunday noon we dressed for dinner – meaning skirts and stockings – no blue jeans, and Friday afternoon tea was served in our living rooms.

The College assumed the role of absentee parent and watched over us. No men in the student bedrooms, curfew of 10 PM on weekdays and 12 midnight on the weekends, Permission was needed from home for weekends off campus. Chapel attendance at 8AM was mandatory 3 times a week and one had to attend church services a certain number of Sundays a month. Smoking in the dorm was only allowed in a special room designated as “the smoker”, the social hub.

Nobody had their own phone – just one lonely phone hanging on the wall at the

end of each corridor. The halls would echo with shouts from the unlucky student living near the phone to alert whomever the call was for. No such thing as a computer and if you were lucky you had a manual typewriter to do your papers. We joined in the special fun traditions on campus. On Seniors Day, the seniors donned their robes to show their superiority over us lowly freshmen. They had us dress like jalopies with headlights on our fronts, windshield wipers on our faces and we had to "honk" whenever we encountered a gowned senior.

As we have gathered over the years for our reunions we came to realize we wanted to leave something meaningful to the college. And so we are very proud that in the last ten years we have raised enough money for our class to have an endowed 1949 Memorial Internship Fund. We have given the money for eight students so far for summer internships carefully chosen for our Fund.

What stands out for each of us after all this time I feel is that our four years here have resulted in lifelong close friendships that have totally enriched our lives and we realize how fortunate we've been. Seventy years have seen many changes on this beautiful campus but our loyalty, love and great pride in our college has always remained a constant without a doubt.

1979

Cynthia Oates

Playwright Wendy Wasserstein has forever labeled Mount Holyoke graduates as "Uncommon Women." What follows are some of the more common experiences we might have shared during our 4 years in South Hadley.

When we first arrived on campus over 40 years ago, we were excited and a bit nervous. We moved into the crowded basement of North Rocky. We stacked our Deans sweaters and cords. We wore our newly purchased Bean boots each day because it rained the first month of school. A friend bought a pair of Frye boots in Amherst that first week.

We skipped the canoe sing and went to a frat party that first night. Some smelled pot for the first time. We brought our stereos, records and beanbag chairs with us. We went to the greenhouse where Mr. Walker let us choose two free plants for our rooms. We took a required swim test and met our future roommates.

During our four years on campus, we spent our free time listening to music: Jackson Browne, Carole King and Aztec Two Step. We drank Tab and smoked

cigarettes. We purchased turtlenecks. We rode the bus to Amherst. When we missed the bus, we hitchhiked to Amherst. We ran around lower lake after practice. We ventured into Northampton to have dinner at Fitzwilly's and to see The Deerhunter at a midnight show. We met for M & C's almost every night that first year. As Seniors, we met for Beer and Pretzels at the C. I. almost every night.

We met our close friends in Biology Lab and on the tennis courts and playing fields and at the riding rink. January term meant skiing, learning Russian and road trips to Dartmouth and Boston. We rode the 5 College bus to the Hampshire Halloween party. We were loyal listeners at the V-8s concerts. Some of us studied abroad in England, Spain and France. Others of us studied abroad in Williamstown, Princeton, and Hanover.

Our class saw President Carter elected. Ted Kennedy campaigned for Senate on Campus. Arlo Guthie sang. We practiced disco dancing. We took classes from John Irving, Joe Ellis, Peter Viereg and Vinnie Ferraro. We inaugurated a new President, Elizabeth Kennan, during our senior year. In the small TV room in our dorm, we watched General Hospital. As freshmen, we witnessed our first Red Sox hysteria as the Boston Red Sox played in the World Series. As seniors, we witnessed our international students glued to the TV while watching the Shah's Fall in Iran. As seniors, also we protested the College's investments in South Africa. And, we listened to graduation speaker, columnist Ellen Goodman caution us that our generation of women would be expected to "do it all": wife, friend, mother, caregiver, career woman.

40 years after graduation, we continue to learn from each other. We laugh. We sing. We protest. We dance and we remember and celebrate our common and not so common lives. Thanks everyone. . . we couldn't have done it without you. Here's to the great class of 1979!

PRESIDENT'S CUP AND REUNION CUP (**Maria Mossaides**)

Maria: It is now my pleasure to announce the winners of the Reunion Awards, based on attendance as of 9 p.m. last night. This year, the winner of the President's Cup, with an attendance of 160, is the class of 1969.

We would also like to recognize the runner-up class for the President's Cup, with an attendance of 135, is the class of 1994.

The winner of the Reunion Cup, with 38 percent in attendance, is the class of 1969. And the runner-up, with 28percent in attendance is the class of 1994.

READING OF CLASS HISTORIES (**Maria Mossaides**)

Maria: I now present the classes of 1994 and 2009.

1994

Katherine Rodi, Class President

In nineteen-ninety, when we were slightly younger folk,
Liz Kennan taught us to correctly say, "Mount Hole-yolk."
Our four-year adventure began with pusillanimous,
It was going to be quite a ride - that was unanimous!
We had Geology and P&P - and watched the library expand,
We, the last of the waitresses, drank our RC - because Coke was banned!
Mandela was freed but the U.S. was at war,
We argued, we protested, we got angry, we swore.
We listened to Arrested Development and the Indigo Girls,
We drank tea in the library, decked in our pearls.
We loved picnics on the Green and staying up late in our dorm,
Wondering if we'd ever find love or a career or - oh my, would we conform?
We hunted for Random Man and had a great Junior Show,
We shipped the men to the Sycamores and got our Blanchard popcorn - to go.
Some of us were on email, but that wasn't a big thing,
We didn't have cellphones - we just waited for our landlines to ring!

When we graduated on a hot May day in the year ninety-four,
We promised ourselves that - in life - we would soar!

And we have - oh my! As Mary Lyon said, go forth,
So we did- 48 states, 20 countries - even in the one up north.
We travel, we write, we knit and we sing,
We have girls and boys and even the furry offspring.
We are doctors and lawyers and accountants and...happy....
But when we think of MHC, we get a bit sappy.
We miss our dear friends, our pegasus class of ninety-four,
These Uncommon Women - who are that - and so much more!
But despite twenty years, we haven't aged a bit,
We still have our good looks, our brains and maybe a wee bit of wit.
We miss our MHC friends but we text and we send tweets,
Sharing our pictures, our stories and even, our defeats.
We are grateful that we were here and earned our degree,
As they say, here's a toast to old MHC.

2009

Dana Capasso Stivers

As the class of 2009 gathers for our 10th reunion we're wondering
Could it really have been ten years ago?

We remember arriving on campus in the fall of 2005, directions to 50 College Street in hand, printed out from Mapquest because GPS on smartphones hadn't been invented yet.

Mount Holyoke was phasing out Telnet and landlines in dorm rooms. Youtube was 6 months young. Facebook was relatively new and the Ipad, Instragram, Twitter, Uber, Venmo, and Google Chrome had yet to be invented.

We remember hoping the fish would give us a good hall choosing number, life before the new dorm was built and being quarantined in Ham for the Swine Flu. We remember sipping chai from Raos while studying and writing papers into the wee hours of the morning, the study rooms in Dwight Hall before the Mews were renovated, long naps taken in the library (or being mad at those taking long naps)

and curling up with a good book at the Thirsty Mind.

We remember strolling downstairs in our dorms to eat breakfast in the mornings, themed gracious dinners and grabbing and going from Torry. We miss the luxury of having delicious meals made for us prepared in our residence halls and having the ability to choose between at least 5 different menus for each meal. . And if nothing on menus from the different dining halls fit our fancy, there was always the option of the grill at Blanchard! (Those curly fries tho)

We remember taking courses at other colleges and hoping on the PVTA to get to Amherst and Noho. We made friends at other schools—inviting them to Vegas Night and Drag Ball and then heading to other campuses... like Hampshire College for Halloween.

We remember watching Barak Obama as he was elected the 44th president of the United States. Our campus erupted in shouting and cheers as we chanted all the way to JoJo's house and back.

Has it really been ten years since we graduated?

As we reflect on all of these memories and the others that we hold dear, we're so grateful to be back at Mohome. Thank you, Mount Holyoke, for all of these memories and making us who we are today.

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION AWARDS (**Maria Mossaides**)

Maria: Next, I would like to present the Alumnae Association Awards to some very deserving alumnae. Your recommendations are critical to our process of finding candidates. Our volunteer award committees take tremendous care and conduct extensive research in selecting award candidates through an objective yearlong vetting process.

You can read the full citations on the Alumnae Association's website; they are a testament to the outstanding achievements of the alumnae we are honoring today.

Executive director of the Alumnae Association, Nancy Perez, will introduce each recipient as I congratulate her.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS (Nancy Bellows Perez)

Nancy: The remarkable alumnae receiving Achievement Awards have truly embodied the values and virtues set forth by the College through their accomplishments and service to society.

Our first recipient is a national expert on women’s education, known for her unwavering focus and dedication to her work. As the eighth president of Simmons College she has led the college through its most successful fundraising campaign and cemented its status as a premier institute for women scholars.

For her outstanding achievements, we are pleased to present **HELEN DRINAN [DRY-nan]**, class of 1969, with the Achievement Award on this, her 50th reunion.

HELEN, will you please step forward?

Nancy: Our next recipient is a scholar, teacher and researcher whose work has led to advancements in the field of bone health and the treatment of osteoporosis, as well as other potentially debilitating diseases. Her skills and achievements have been widely recognized by the University of Connecticut, where she established a laboratory and rose to the rank of professor of medicine.

For her outstanding achievements, we are pleased to present **BARBARA KREAM**, class of 1969, with the Achievement Award on this, her 50th reunion.

BARBARA, will you please step forward?

Nancy: Our third recipient has had a distinguished career in the top ranks of both public and private sectors. As director of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency under President Barack Obama, she helped U.S. businesses create jobs through the export of their goods and services for priority development projects in emerging economies. In 2018 she was appointed president of Agnes Scott College, where she continues to be a champion of global education.

For her outstanding achievements, we are pleased to present **LEOCADIA [leo-CAY-dia ZAK [zack]**, class of 1979, with the Achievement Award on this, her 40th reunion.

LEE, will you please step forward?

ALUMNAE MEDAL OF HONOR (**Nancy Bellows Perez**)

Nancy: This year we are recognizing four remarkable graduates with the Alumnae Medal of Honor, presented to alumnae for their eminent service promoting Mount Holyoke through leadership, service and dedication.

Nancy: Our first recipient has played a pivotal role in the life of the Mount Holyoke community in Europe, leading clubs and the European Council in various capacities during a pivotal time in its history. Her efforts to bring the global

perspective to the work of the College and the Alumnae Association has helped to establish more effective alumnae engagement internationally.

For her eminent service, the Alumnae Association is pleased to present **BARBARA SCHMIDT [SHH-mitt]**, class of 1969, with the Alumnae Medal of Honor on this, her 50th reunion.

BARBARA, will you please step forward?

Nancy: Our next recipient of the Alumnae Medal of Honor is an exceptionally dedicated alumna and current trustee of the College who has used her professional experience and strategic thinking skills to influence key decisions at Mount Holyoke, providing guidance that has led to transformational changes on campus.

For her eminent service, the Alumnae Association is pleased to present **ELIZABETH COCHARY [cock-er-EEE] GROSS**, class of 1979, with the Alumnae Medal of Honor on this, her 40th reunion.

LIZ, will you please step forward?

Nancy: Our next Medal of Honor recipient has truly made Mount Holyoke a priority where she goes. She has displayed unwavering commitment and leadership in her service to Mount Holyoke through her involvement with her class and club, as a member of the College's board of trustees and in her work on numerous Association committees.

For her eminent service, the Alumnae Association is pleased to present

ELIZABETH TAYLOR, class of 1979, with the Alumnae Medal of Honor on this, her 40th reunion.

LIZ, will you please step forward?

Nancy: Today's final recipient of the Alumnae Medal of Honor goes to an alumna who brings an enormous amount of innovation and emotional intelligence to her work on behalf of the College. She is a steadfast, smart and balanced professional who has excelled in representing alumnae voices in her work through clubs, committees and on the board of trustees.

For her eminent service, the Alumnae Association is pleased to present **JENNIFER ROCHLIS [Rock-liss]**, class of 1994, with the Alumnae Medal of Honor on this, her 25th reunion.

JEN, will you please step forward?

Nancy: At this time I am pleased to present our inaugural Innovator Award. This award is presented to an alumna whose innovative leadership has resulted in significant change and exemplifies the values and virtues set forth by the College.

Our recipient today is being honored for her work connecting incoming international students with alumnae who serve as mentors and provide support to students, many of whom are traveling alone or to a new country. What began as a personal endeavor has more formally become the Alumnae International Student Sponsorship program, resulting in 45 students being matched with 45 alums in each of the past two years.

For her devotion to Mount Holyoke and her outstanding accomplishments, the Alumnae Association is pleased to present **LESLIE [lez-lee] GREEN**, class of 1994, with the Innovator Award on this, her 25th reunion.

LESLIE, will you please step forward?

RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH TOPHAM KENNAN AWARDS (**Nancy Bellows Perez**)

Nancy: This year, I am proud to present the Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award for outstanding contributions to the field of education to a passionate supporter of women’s education and a champion for educational access. This alumna has had a distinguished career as a faculty member and researcher as well as vice chancellor of the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh, where she helped to advance the mission to educate women for lives of leadership and service.

For her tireless commitment to teaching and learning, we are pleased to present **FAHIMA AZIZ [Fa-HE-ma a-ZEEZ]**, class of 1979, with the Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award, on this, her 40th reunion.

FAHIMA, will you please step forward?

RECOGNITION OF MARY LYON AWARD WINNERS: (**Nancy Bellows Perez**)

Nancy: I would also like to recognize this year’s Mary Lyon Award recipients, **Gabrielle Gregg**, class of 2008, **Merli [mare-lee] V. Guerra**, class of 2009, and **Brooke Fokker Nichols**, class of 2009, who received their awards in April.

LOYALTY AWARD WINNERS AND YOUNG ALUMNAE VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS (**Nancy Bellows Perez**)

Nancy: I now wish to recognize the recipients of the Loyalty Award and the Young Alumna Leadership Award. These amazing volunteers serve on committees, organize club events, raise funds for their alma mater, help plan reunions and much, much more.

Winners, would you please stand? Please join me in congratulating these dedicated volunteers. Recipients will also be recognized at class gatherings later today.

RECOGNITION OF ALUMNAE SCHOLARS (**Nancy Bellows Perez**)

Nancy: In many alumnae clubs around the country, fundraising projects throughout the year help to make student scholarships possible. During the past academic year more than \$19,000 was added to the College's resources for scholarships from participating clubs, programs, and individual alumnae. Alumnae scholars are listed in your program.

ALL PAST AWARD WINNERS (**Nancy Bellows Perez**)

Nancy: Finally, I would like to recognize former award recipients. Would all past recipients of Achievement, Elizabeth Topham Kennan, Alumnae Medal of Honor, Loyalty, Young Alumna Volunteer Leadership, and Mary Lyon Awards please stand? [Lead applause.]

READING OF THE CLASS HISTORIES

Nancy: We will now hear from the classes of 1999 and 2017.

1999

You may have heard about us; heard the legend of '99.
We are the disruptive ones. The rule-breakers. The ones with swagger.
The class that questions authority and colors outline the lines.
Our fights for the soul and future of Mount Holyoke made national news.
So did our Junior Show.
Our after parties were always better.

The Class of 1999 won a record number of Fulbright Scholarships, Mount Holyoke's first-ever individual NCAA championship, and successfully dared a male rock band to run a lap around the Green – naked – senior year.

Born in the 70s, raised in the 80s, we came of age in the 90s. We are the tail end of Generation X, but we don't like labels.

We are not apathetic; we are not entitled.
We are the fighters. We are the believers. We are the doers.
We started college with dial-up and ended with broadband. We "PINE"d for email.
We built our own web pages, chatted on IRC, and posted on TIN.

Liz Phair, Garbage, Billy Joel, Jewel, and the Indigo Girls all played Chapin.

We saw OJ Simpson acquitted, Bill Clinton impeached, and Princess Diana die in a car crash.

During our time, Mount Holyoke was a top twenty college, ranked on the *U.S. News and World Report* list in the teens.

On Friday evenings we packed the dorm TV rooms to search for the truth with Mulder and Scully; on Thursdays we dreamed that Dr. Ross, or Dr. Lewis, would save us in the ER.

We had Bob the squirrel, Elvis the duck, and Kevin the party cop.

We fought for expanded cultural space, an Asian Studies program, the college chaplains—and even conservative awareness.

We began to change the definition of the student body—expanding the Lesbian Bisexual Alliance to include trans and gender non-conforming students. And we are proud to see today's Mount Holyoke be a more open, accepting, inclusive and

tolerant place.

Our opinion of what made Mount Holyoke unique, special, and important in this world was fundamentally different from Joanne Creighton's – so we fought her Plan for 2003.

But we lost.

Consequentially, we saw the beginning of the end of cherished institutions and traditions from dinning in every dorm and bell deskers to, most significantly, need-blind admissions.

We were also the last class to have convocation at night.

We'd explain why and apologize to the classes that followed us except, well, our memories of that night are just a little bit hazy...

However; we still have our "Official Class of '99 Party Stein"s.

We rode the ride van and the PVTA.

Ate at pizza at Antonio's, popovers at Judy's, and ice cream at Herrell's.

We cruised the bars in Amherst and the coffee shops in Northampton.

We secretly loved Madonna TAP. We ruled the Hu Ke Lau.

We still don't know what happened to the Upper Lake flasher or the whispering woman, but we know the matter is under investigation.

In her commencement address, Anna Quindlen urged us to give up the quest for perfection and begin the work of becoming individuals.

And so we have.

Yet, we remain the only class that ever would, could, did, or does, party like we're 1999.

May the legend live on...

2017 **Juliet Martone**

Arrival to Campus

We arrived to campus on a blistering day in August 2013. Sporting our shiny new One Cards on green lanyards, we turned the keys to our first dorm rooms and greeted our peers who hailed from around the world. Before we knew it, we were launched into the buzz, uncertainty and excitement of Orientation, culminating in

the fan favorite play, "Orientation 101".

Traditions

Traditions like Dis-Orientation, Elfing and Pangy Day marked our time at school with festivity and surprise. I'm sure we can all remember sitting in the library guessing at which day we'd hear the chapel bells ring and hike Mount Holyoke (or... just finally sleep in). And let's not forget the time the Administration staged a flash mob at convocation to "Can't Stop the Feeling"- a dance break we won't soon forget! And, among the many ways our Connection class of 1967 offered their support, they made sure we didn't graduate without a proper lesson in tea-serving etiquette.

Important Speakers and Campus Visitors

Over the years, leaders of various disciplines visited our campus to impart their wisdom including America Ferrera, Judge Glenda Hatchett, Roxane Gay and Elizabeth Warren. There was even an Oprah sighting in 2013!

Campus Movements

Critical student organizing took place throughout our time here. In 2014, MoHonest emerged, dedicated to helping the College better support and advocate for students of color. Other orgs like the Students of Color Committee, founded in 2015, and Disrupting Whiteness, formed in 2017, also organized for racial justice, allyship and education on campus and beyond.

Campus Changes

In 2015, Lynn Pasquerella, Class of 1980 and the 18th President of the College, took a new post as the President of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. She was replaced by now-President Sonya Stephens. We also saw the rise of super blanch from the ground up. To commemorate the new building, students signed a beam to be placed centrally in the new structure.

World Events

The global political and social climate continued to be fraught with change and unrest. Our class witnessed many pivotal historical events from the second-term of our first black President, the passage of marriage equality in the US, and the emergence of Black Lives Matter, to the election of Donald Trump, Brexit and the ongoing crisis in Syria.

Closing Thoughts

The last time we were here together, we were preparing to do the impossible: Take our degrees, the thousands of memories shared, and set out on a brand new chapter.

Whether we left our marks on the field, at the podium, onstage or in the lab, our time here was transformative. The richness of perspective and contagious passion we cultivated here weaves its way into our new work and communities. And while we're eagerly building our lives across the globe, we know this: There's nothing quite like coming MoHome.

CLOSING REMARKS (Maria Mossaides)

Thank you. Every class history is a living time capsule, and we are honored to bear witness to this rich legacy of memories.

In closing, I would like to encourage each of you to consider ways that your life demonstrates the value of your Mount Holyoke education. The quiet modesty that marks a Mount Holyoke graduate appeals to us as friends, but it does not do justice to you as individuals or to our alma mater.

So please help the Alumnae Association celebrate you by sharing any good news about your life and work. It is critical to the future of Mount Holyoke College to know and to share your successes as evidence of the impact of a Mount Holyoke education.

ALMA MATER AND ADJOURNMENT (Maria Mossaides)

Maria: Before we adjourn this meeting, I'd like 1969 classmates **MARILYN COBURN KINCAID** and **LINDA GIANNASI O'CONNELL**, to lead us in the singing of the Alma Mater. Please see the back of your program for the lyrics.

We invite all of today's award recipients to remain after the meeting for photos.

Thank you for being here today, and please enjoy the rest of your reunion!

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