Class of 1995
15th Reunion

May 21-23, 2010
Dear Classmates,

Almost 19 years ago the class of 1995 arrived at Mount Holyoke ready to make our mark on the campus and the world. We came from far and wide with differing experiences and backgrounds but in four short years shared a common bond through our experiences at Mount Holyoke (although I must admit, at the time those years didn’t feel all that short!). We witnessed many major national and world events together including the LA Riots, Waco, the Oklahoma City bombing, and the election of Nelson Mandela. We debated many hot issues on campus such as going co-ed and disorientation. And we saw the end of an era when Elizabeth Kennan stepped down after 17 years as the 16th president of Mount Holyoke College.

Things have changed quite a bit since our graduation 15 years ago. Mount Holyoke is about to welcome its 18th president to campus. When we were in college, reality TV for us meant the nightly news or a documentary. We had no idea that blackberries would no longer be just a fruit but would someday be a communication device we couldn’t live without. Facebook and Twitter were not even a part of our vocabulary. And we could only dream of electing an African-American President. The one thing that hasn’t changed, other than all of us believing that Mountain Day should be a national holiday, is that we remain the strong, unique women Mount Holyoke turned us into.

It really is hard to believe that 15 years ago we left Mount Holyoke as students and joined the ranks of alumnae. Although perhaps a bit nervous, we were all so excited about the life we were about to embark on and the challenges we were ready to face. Little did we know just how full and busy our lives would become 15 short years later. Families, careers, school, travel, and hobbies are just a few of the things that collectively fill our lives today. For those of us fortunate enough to be able to attend reunion this weekend, I really hope you enjoy everything our reunion co-chairs and volunteers have put together. All of our lives are busy and the lives of our reunion co-chairs and volunteers are no exception. I am grateful for the time they have put forth to ensure that we all have a fun and enjoyable weekend. In addition, I am grateful for another group of equally busy women, our class board. The work they have done the last five years leading up to our reunion should not go unnoticed. From keeping our finances in check, selling onesies, keeping our website updated, collecting money for both our class and Mount Holyoke, keeping us all up to date on what our classmates have been up to, seeking volunteers to serve our class, and sponsoring mini-reunions, they really have kept us connected to Mount Holyoke and to one another. Please take a moment this weekend to thank them for their service and work. I really hope you each enjoy the weekend and catch up with old friends while making new ones. See you in five years at our 20th!

—Becky Leyva, Class President
Special thanks to the hardworking crew. We appreciate all the time and commitment you have put into the Board as well as the Reunion.

Class Board
Becky McMahan Leyva: President
Michelle Chuck: Treasurer
Zosia Wadoski Brown: Reunion Co-Chair
Andrea Sheehan: Reunion Co-Chair
Kate Burke Laird: Co-Scribe
Stephanie Gillette: Co-Scribe
Hannah Love: Web Coordinator
Leah Ross: Head Class Agent
Julie Green: Head Class Agent
Becky Jacques: Nominating Committee Chair
Randi Stebbins: Nominating Committee

Reunion Committee Chairs
Melissa Gerlach: Co-Welcoming Chair
Julie Green: Co-Welcoming Chair
Kate Burke Laird: Booklet Co-Chair/ Sign Co-Chair
Rebecca Gold: Booklet Co-Chair/ Sign Co-Chair
Annie Croft: Saturday Night Dinner Chair
Katharine Delo Gregg: Friday Social Chair
Stephanie Ward Chairi: Nametag Chair
Andrea Letourneau Novak: Costume Chair
Nitza Diaz: Program Chair
MHC quiz
Put your knowledge to the test!

1. Milk : cookies as Mary Lyon : ?
a) grave  b) bonnet  c) horses  d) electronics

2. Plants : arboretum as the dead chicken : ?
a) Carr  b) Clapp  c) Library  d) Blanchard Café

3. What is still here from our time at MHC?
a) Blanchard popcorn  b) The Grind  c) Fast Freddies
   d) the Upper Lake swimming rat

4. What is the name of the new residence hall?
a) Gill Hall  b) The Ratt  c) The New Residence Hall  d) Creighton Dorm

5. The incoming class members are:
a) Class of 2014—mere babes  b) in for it  c) women  d) a-c

6. Pangynaskeia is:
a) a celebration of women that takes place every spring  b) difficult to spell
   c) difficult to pronounce  d) a-c

7. What major was recently discontinued at MHC?
a) American Studies  b) American Idol Studies  c) Environmental Studies
   d) English

8. The woman who will assume the Presidency of Mt. Holyoke on July 1, 2010 is:
a) Becky McMahan Leyva  b) Lynn Pasquerella  c) Lady Gaga  d) Liz Kennan

9. Fill in the blank: Oh, Mount Holyoke, we pay thee __________.
a) tuition  b) devotion  c) calamine lotion  d) superstition
10. Fill in the blank: Tired of books and boring classes? Drop your ____, pick up your glasses!
   a) pants  b) pens  c) guns  d) books

11. According to the Drinking Song, what drink do Mt. Holyoke women prefer?
   a) fuzzy navel  b) iced tea  c) whiskey sour  d) Tab

12. True or false: Upper Lake is bigger than Lower Lake.

13. True or false: MHC gained national attention recently when it announced its initiative to become a completely paperless campus by the year 2020.

14. True or false: President Creighton’s dog Maisie has a Twitter account.

15. True or false: MHC will have a wrestling team starting in Fall 2010.


How many correct answers did you get? Look below to see how you rank in your MHC knowledge.

(0-3) **Griffin**
You are a very strange creature. Did you even go to MHC?!

(4-7) **Pegasus**
You have just begun to spread your wings.

(8-11) **Lion**
You have a fierce understanding of MHC.

(12-15) **Sphinx**
Your MHC knowledge is legendary!
Quotes from alumnae

Anyone who is considered funny will tell you, sometimes without even your asking, that deep inside they are very serious, neurotic, introspective people.  
—Wendy Wasserstein

Nobody, but nobody, is going to stop breathing on me.  
—Dr. Virginia Apgar

Being a woman has only bothered me in climbing trees.  
—Frances Perkins

Dwell in possibility.  
—Emily Dickinson

But, whatever the reason, the idea was born that women could and should be educated. It lifted a mountain load from woman. It shattered the idea, everywhere pervasive as the atmosphere, that women were incapable of education, and would be less womanly, less desirable in every way, if they had it.  
—Lucy Stone

And an honorary alumna:  
Now that the preaching is over, I thought I should give you five rules for living life that worked for me.

The first rule in life is: cherish your friends and your family as if your life depended on it….because it does.

Number two: Love people more than things. You know those T-shirts that say “He who has the most toys when he dies wins” I’m going to promise you that over the years I’ve spent my life collecting a great number of things I thought I would die if I didn’t have. And I wouldn’t give you a nickel for most of it today.

Number three: Indulge the fool in you. Encourage the clown and the laughter that is inside of you. You know? Go ahead and do it. Make time now for play, for the impractical, for the absurd, and make it a rule to do it. Not just every now and then. Let your heart overrule your head once in a while. Never turn down a new experience unless it’s law or it’s going to get you in real serious trouble.

Number four: Don’t spend a lot of time worrying about your failures. I’ve learned a whole lot more from my mistakes than from all my successes.

And Number five: Have some sense about work. No one ever died muttering, “I wish I had spent more time at the office.”
—Ann Richards, 1995 Commencement excerpt
**Things to do during reunion**

Are there things you never did and meant to do when we were students here? Things you did a lot and feel like you haven’t done in a million years? Now’s your chance.

- Walk around Upper Lake
- Sit on a bench by one of the lakes and catch up with a friend
- Talk to an older and wiser alum
- Talk to someone’s who graduating—pretend you are an older and wiser alum
- Take a tour of the New Residence Hall and make the rooms’ lights turn on and off by stepping Billie-Jean style!
- Work out in the newly renovated Kendall
- Get a cup of coffee in Blanchard
- Get a cup of coffee at the café in the library. Yes, exactly. A few years too late.
- Visit a part of campus that hasn’t been renovated since we graduated
- Bring the horses some dry cereal
- Nap on the Green
- Streak the Green
- Visit a dorm you used to live in
- Visit a dorm you never lived in
- Get to know someone in our class you didn’t know when we were in college
- Tell a younger alum a story that begins with the words, “You know, when I was at MHC…”
- Go into Abbey Chapel and reflect on life’s big questions
- Visit the Art Museum
- Lie on the grass by the garden at the art building
- Track down and catch up with a favorite professor
- Go for an old-school joy ride on the PVTA
- Start a riot—tell people the beer truck just pulled out and is not coming back
- Take a moment to think about classmates who aren’t with us anymore
- Call a classmate who didn’t make it to reunion and tell her she better not miss our 20th
- Track down a class agent and make a gift
- See if you can still name all the dorms on the Green
- Grab a sandwich from Tailgate for your trip home
- Stock up on MHC apparel at the bookstore
Survey results

When facing the writing of the booklet, we were at a loss as to what to put in it. We went for the survey. Turned to survey monkey and all y’all to help us out with what to share. It became an eye opening experience, because here is what was learned about 79(ish) women from our graduating year that took the time to fill it out (could have been you, right here, right now, reading this).

Yellow? Not the best color. Many of us run from it. Yes, sure, it can be sunshininy and all buttery goodness. But on our skin? Not so much. But when we see it, we think of MHC and how it would have sphinxed to be any other class or color.

Most of us have settled down with some sort of pet or child. Some both. Some counted their spouse as pets—no comment there. We are nurturers and lovers. We are all about scooping and wiping poo in the name of love. And for those with spouses as well, washing the toilet bowl.

Education. We couldn’t be stopped. We kept going on to get MAs and law degrees. We got licenses to teach and do electrical work and help birth some babies. We got papers saying we can heal, sell stuff, organize stuff, and do so in foreign languages! There were initials in there that we had never seen before. Perhaps some were made up and look! You got away with it. And some of us left MHC and went right into working and living our lives, leaving it to the world around us to give us our higher education.
We were surprised to find out how many of us survey takers did not get sucked into the Twilight series. We’d like a re-count. Or a sub question—did you get sucked into the movies? Perhaps it was all bypassed and the vampire lovin’ was satiated by the True Blood series and Showtime show. Everyone and their sister must be getting some vampire fix somewhere. It is the flannel of our college years.

So many skipped the motto question. This, however, was made up for by the inspirational mottos shared! One was: “One day at a time, sweet Jesus”. This can read two ways. It is an important adage and is filled with warm religious sentiment. It can also be a mantra of an extremely stressful moment—it is all in how you add the “sweet Jesus” part.” One day at a time” (child takes off soiled diaper on couch) “SWEET JESUS!”

Some more faves:
“Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do next week.”
“Be what you’d like to see in the world.”
“Come the Revolution, there'll be no limousines!”
“Live and learn and then live and learn again.”
“Lead, follow, or get out of my way.”

When asked, “In a word, what has Mount Holyoke given you,” the number one answer given was “confidence.” Here are the other words: insight, strength, appreciation, courage, empowerment, sisters, knowledge, awareness, friends, brains, education, chutzpah, feminism, belonging, intellectual basis for faith (which was a cheater!), curiosity, memories, debt, fortitude, leadership, possibilities, confidence, intellectual curiosity (cheats!), ambition, community, collaboration, home, freedom, happiness, zest, lifelong friendship (cheaterpants!), world, intelligence, and, a personal favorite: everything.
MHC Mad Libs

Overheard at Reunion

“[Exclamation]!” shouted [name of alum in room], as she [verb (past tense)] around campus. “When I was a student here I never realized how [adjective] and [adjective] this campus is. I guess it’s true what they say: [singular noun] is wasted on the [adjective]. If I came back to college now, I’d do a lot of things differently: for starters, I’d [verb] more and [verb] less. I’d also never skip a [noun], complain about the [noun], or miss out on [noun]. Yes indeed, it feels [adjective] to be back at MHC!”

Sweet Remembrances

“Whenever I look at that beautiful, [adjective] dorm [last name of person in room], I think back to the year I [verb (past tense)] there with my [adjective] roommate [name of alum in room]. She was [adjective], yet we got along [adverb]. One day while going for a [animal] back ride around Upper [noun], we bumped into none other than Liz Kennan, who was riding her [animal]. My clumsy friend was so surprised that she [verb (past tense)] onto the path, causing poor Liz to [verb] her [noun]. It was [adjective] at the time, but now it seems [adjective] as [place].”
A Short History of MHC

Mount Holyoke College was founded by [name of person in room] in [year]. It began as a [noun], a place for young [plural noun] to go and [verb] the [plural noun] of life. Today, Mount Holyoke remains an all-[adjective] college and has more than [number] students. Popular majors include International [plural noun] and [noun] Studies. The college is nestled in the [adjective] town of South Hadley and is part of the [number]-college consortium that includes neighboring schools.

Grand Traditions

Do you know about the [adjective] traditions at Mount Holyoke? On Founder’s Day, students eat [food] on Mary Lyon’s [noun]. On Mountain Day, [plural noun] are cancelled for the day and students [verb] to the top of Mt. Holyoke and [verb] a picnic lunch. There’s the [adjective] activity elfing, which involves sophomores leaving secret [plural noun] for firsties to find. Finally, there’s the [adjective] Laurel Parade. Alumnae march through campus dressed in [adjective] clothing, carrying [plural noun], and singing the song “Bread and [plural noun].” Indeed, Mt. Holyoke has many proud and [adjective] traditions.
Autographs