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# Joyous Culmination of the 1960/2010 Connection Project

by Dana Feldshuh Whyte '60 and Nancy Zone Bloom '60



As sleepy members of the Class of 2010 began to file over the Cat House Bridge into Senior Breakfast at Willits, they were surprised and delighted by the loud sounds of Dixieland Jazz being led by Alex-Lee (we'll follow him anywhere), Clark playing the trumpet.

What was the band doing there? Who planned this? What's this all about? Seniors looked bewildered, but pleased. We, in their Grandmother Class of 1960, had hired the band as a surprise "graduation gift" and rousing send-off for our well-loved granddaughters in the Class of 2010.

Distinguished older women (that would be us) lined the path wearing the gym suits we had considered an anathema during our time at MHC, white class blazers, Bermuda shorts, poodle skirts, PEARLS and circle pins (What did those pins signify anyway?). Some of us were carrying posters of our yearbook photos...to show the kids what happens in 50 years.

The band marched to the path leading to Kendall as hundreds of seniors followed. At 8AM, this was a very early morning gig for the five members of the band but Alex-Lee had told us that it had long been his dream to be followed by 500 Mount Holyoke College seniors.

Beaming seniors walked over, hugged "grandmothers" in the class of 1960, hugged random people, talked, laughed, danced and disappeared into graduation rehearsal where parade marshal, Penny Lebel, whipped them into alphabetical order in record time. The band played on outside Kendall as stragglers ran in and many in the class of 1960 were also dancing and singing on the steps of Kendall.

We welcomed the seniors and presented them with a check for \$2010 to boost their treasury. We urged them not to become so isolated by their screens and headphones to the point where they no longer know how to make eye contact or read body language, and we thanked them warmly for keeping "us in touch with the current culture on campus."



Although certain that it was impossible for them to contemplate fifty years, we reminded them that there would be a letter from the Class of 1960 to be opened at their 50th reunion. We hoped that many of them might remember some of our personal connections and later reflect on their continued connection to Mount Holyoke.

At the Alumnae Association Annual Meeting following the Laurel Chain Parade, co-president Sue Cabot and I delivered the class history, having conscripted two members of the Class of 2010, Hannah Doherty and Kelsey Anderson, to be our accomplices. Sue began with:

“Although steeped in tradition, Mount Holyoke has always been about the future as well. At the nexus of yesterday and tomorrow is today. Put another way, 1960 meets 2010 in the Amphitheater of the present. The dress was different, the language was different but like 2010, we went to class, produced papers, took exams, met at milk and cookies, talked through the night and made lasting friendships. We AGONIZED over relationships and the almighty future...” After a series of interactions ([click here for full text](#)), I concluded, “BUT, just like you...we laughed-in, stressed-out, burned-out and checked-out of South Hadley to go onto the next things. We left a big piece of ourselves and our hearts in this place.”

These surprise events represented the joyous culmination of a three-year relationship with our “Granddaughter” Class of 2010. ([Watch the video of our presentation on YouTube!](#))

In an effort to encourage the Alumnae Association to reconsider the proposal of moving the 50th reunion to Reunion II weekend, we cited our intention of striving to form an active connection between our respective classes. This connection was to be based on material made available to us from the Class of 1961 at Dartmouth via our own Linda Webber Sturtevant and from the MHC Class of 1980 via Cynthia Reed. We wanted to highlight the connection on the graduation weekend for the Class of 2010 and desired that many members of our own class be present to facilitate the effort.

It all began in the fall of 2007 when we invited the Class Board of the Class of 2010 to join us for dinner at Willits. We explained that they were very special to us because in three years, we would be together on this campus celebrating two very important events in our lives: their graduation and our 50th Reunion. Soon they were calling us their “grandmother class.”

The connection continued as we participated in the annual event, More for Sophomores, and the establishment of almost one hundred email matches between women in the Class of 1960 and the Class of 2010.

We publicized a 2010/1960 Connection Dessert Reception during our mini-reunion in 2008, an event which “rocked” and resulted in the facilitation of even more email matches. Two major Elfing events were organized and accomplished and they have been described humorously and at length on our [Web site](#) (click on the top link “message board” and then click on the photo of hands). The two classes cooperated in a knitting community service project which resulted in the delivery of 70 items to a family shelter.

Members of both classes found that the connection added something rare and wonderful to our Mount Holyoke experience. It kept us in touch with the current culture on campus. Intergenerational relationships were formed and fostered. It is our hope that the Class of