

2010 may feel closer to the College because of this additional connection...because they have now known women fifty years out of college who have maintained an association with the place where they met...a time/place that, perhaps, made them begin to know that "all things are connected." Fifty years? Is that a span of time they can contemplate? We could not.

Our class has had an on-going association with the Mount Holyoke Archives so this would not be complete without another reference. "On a new England Campus" was written by Frances Lester Warner (MHC, 1911). It was published in 1937 and in it, she quotes Mary Lyon before making a comment of her own which we can build upon. Mary Lyon said, "This Institution is destined to exist thousands of years. It is founded on a strong basis...It is of vast importance, and could we look back upon fifty years of its existence, we should see its utility." (Recall that Mary Lyon died when she was 52.) In 1937, Mrs. Warner commented, "Fifty years? We are looking back over one hundred years right now. We have seen its vivacity in the past and in the present. But, perhaps the full scope of its utility for the future has not dawned on us as yet." Here we are one-hundred and seventy-three years later.

We urge the Class of 2010 to keep their contact information up to date because we plan Elfing events on all continents. At the very least, we hope to see them at their reunion in 2012. They have not heard the last of us!

—Dana Feldshuh Whyte and Nancy Zone Bloom
Class of 1960 web site



Class of 1960 Class History presentation 50th Reunion

Like all Mount Holyoke College class histories, ours begins in 1837.

Although steeped in tradition, MHC 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.
[2010 delegates on steps to get microphones]

The dress was different, the language was different but like 2010 we went to class, produced papers, took exams, met at Milk and Crackers (no fruit), talked through the night and made lasting friendships. We AGONIZED over relationships and the almighty FUTURE. We listened to Mary Lyon chime and noted how much time we had before...whatever.

[Hannah vocalizes first 2 lines of Mary Lyon]

1960—We lived mostly by the rules of the time and the rules of the College. There were elaborate rules of college and dorm life and rules on attire and decorum—on which we were required to take a test.

2010—We'd—like—so—totally have issues with that.

1960—We didn't have cell phones. We didn't even have room phones. There was a certain mystery and uncertainty and anticipation--- We speculated about things and there was an acceptable level of "ignorance."

2010—No texting or twittering? So, like no instant gratification?

1960—And we managed to get along without cars or a 5-College Bus. We walked. We biked. We even had Saturday classes and we were required to take 5 courses every semester. We took COMPS in our major and had to pass in order to graduate.

2010—SO—like how did you meet "interesting people your own age?"

1960—On campus? Mary Lyon mail room was a meeting place. We hung out in Wilbur and Glessie's and the College Inn and had "mixers" and blind dates---remember no email because there were no computers and no Internet. We used typewriters; a portable typewriter was state of the art.

2010—I think I saw one for sale on e-Bay...Like HOW did you correct mistakes?

1960—Did we MAKE them? (look at each other) Oh right... WHITE OUT!

2010—Wow...we would be SO over that...Did you have whale bone stays and smelling salts?

1960—No, but we did have sweater sets and pearls. Some of us even wore girdles, which along with stockings and heels and skirts, we put on for Gracious Living...when, all a-twitter (as the term was used 50 years ago), we hosted faculty members for candlelight Wednesday dinners in the dorm.

2010—We email our professors and often call them by their first names...

1960—Each dorm had its own dining room and waitresses who were scholarship students...

2010---Omygosh---overt class-ism

1960—Nope—financial aid and upward mobility. For the first 3 years, before a student mini-revolt, there was compulsory chapel...

2010—Y’know...how politically incorrect is that? What about diversity?

1960—(look at each other) That was THEN...before Birmingham and Selma...before a global economy...before the Internet... HEY but we learned about our bodies in Baby Physiology...

2010—We-like- learned about our bodies in 4th grade....

1960—No males were allowed about the first floor but once I saw a guy sneaking out of a broom closet on the 2nd floor...

2010—Like...y’know---I saw a man in the shower this morning and he said “Hi”...

1960—Dorm doors weren’t locked until 10PM weekdays when “Quiet Hours” began. No one locked their rooms. And there was that Honor System—and a Judicial Board in case you forgot. The CURFEW had to be obeyed.

2010—Curfews? I thought they were for countries at war with bloody uprisings. We have so much electronic stuff (list ad lib) i-Pods, i-Phones...etc

1960—Different from us. Our big ticket items were clock radios, record players and hair dryers. BUT, just like YOU...we Laughed-in, Stressed out, Burned out and then Checked-out of South Hadley to go onto the next things.

We left a big piece of ourselves and out hearts in this place.

[Hannah vocalizes last 2 lines of Mary Lyon]

1960—We thank you very much for helping us.

2010—No problem.

1960—We didn’t think it was a problem. Why don’t you say “You’re welcome?”

2010—No problem....

1960—(in unison) Like—WHATEVER... ?

Main e-news